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LITERATURE.

The Home of the Eddas. By Charles G. Warnford Lock. (Sampson Low & Co.)

MR. LOCK's interests in Iceland are commercial rather than literary. It is to him rather a place with mineral products to be developed than a "home of Eddas," or "a birthplace of thrilling sagas"; and in this respect the title of his book is perhaps a little misleading. He appears to have acted as the secretary of a joint-stock company which was formed by his father and others a few years ago for the purpose of working the sulphur deposits in the north of Iceland, and of which the head-quarters were at Húsavík, a little port on the north-east coast. This is the company of which, if we remember rightly, Captain Burton, in his *Ultima Thule*, described the prospects in somewhat sanguine terms; our present author hints guardedly at the circumstances which attended its decline and fall. He was in Iceland in 1872, when Captain Burton fraternised with his party, but the present volume contains only slight references to the events of that visit, and is entirely occupied with the experiences of two later visits, in the years 1875 and 1876-7. In the first of those years he seems to have explored pretty thoroughly the neighbourhood of Húsavík and Mývatn, and has added one more to the descriptions of the grand Dettifoss Fall to which Mr. Baring Gould was the first to call attention. He then, in company with some Icelandic friends, including a lady, galloped from Akureyri to Reikiavik by the Storisandr route, accomplishing the ride of 350 miles in the remarkably short time of five days, and concluded his expedition by a visit to the comparatively tourist-haunted region of Hekla and the geysirs. In the next year he landed at Reikiavik at the end of April or the beginning of May, made his way round by the coast route to Akureyri—the more direct Storisandr track being impassable at that early season—and reached Húsavík in the beginning of June. The remainder of the summer, with the exception of a short scamper to Seydisfjörðr on the south-east coast on a matter connected with the sale of ponies, appears to have been mainly occupied with the company's mining operations, and the exigencies of their business apparently required their agent to remain on the north coast through the next winter. A significant heading in one of the chapters devoted to this period, "How Companies' Business is Mismanaged," prepares us for the crisis which shortly afterwards took place in the company's

affairs. The details are naturally touched on with some reserve, but the upshot was that, "owing to the spasmodic and unreliable manner in which remittances were sent from London," the secretary found it necessary to convene a meeting of the company's local creditors, which was held at Húsavík, under the presidency of the Syslumadr, some time in January 1877. We speak from an imperfect recollection of the commercial chapters of the Grágás, but, so far as we remember, that venerable code enters with greater detail into the equitable division of captured whales than into the machinery applicable to the winding-up of joint-stock companies. It may be that its deficiencies in this respect have been supplemented by the Althing. But, whatever the Legislature may have done, it would appear that the executive has shown itself alive to the necessity of making some provision for the requirements of joint-stock enterprise, for we are informed by our author that the first thing which the Danish Government did after they let their sulphur diggings to an English house was to build a new gaol at Húsavík. A local authority, the Hreppstjóri (a kind of overseer of the poor), who attended the creditors' meeting, naturally caught at what was probably a unique opportunity of utilising the new building, and proposed to incarcerate in it the secretary of the defaulting company. But the financial arrangements for the maintenance of prisoners in Iceland are defective; and when it appeared that the hreppstjóri would probably have to maintain the prisoner at his own expense, the proposal was dropped, and eventually the unfortunate representative of the company retained his liberty on condition of surrendering his own effects as well as those of his employers. The discomforts of being in pawn at Lille are well known to all the readers of Thackeray; those of being in liquidation in Iceland are probably more serious, and the prospects of discharge by means of postal remittances are certainly more remote. Our author's energies were fortunately equal to the emergency. He piled on a sledge such of his effects as he was allowed to retain, trudged across the ice-bound country to Akureyri (the chief place on the northern coast), and there maintained himself by giving instruction in English at the inn. His lectures were well attended; and although his maximum fee was 4½d. an hour, yet it may be satisfactory to the frugal mind to learn that even on these modest charges it is possible to earn at Akureyri more than double the cost of your board and lodging. It is fair, however, to warn those who are in search of educational employment, and to whom the chance of a professorship of English at Akureyri might appear to afford an opening, that, although the cost of living may be moderate, the standard of comfort is not high. An untimely illness prevented Mr. Lock from taking the first opportunity of starting homeward, and when he attempted to resume his lessons he found that the local schoolmaster had stepped into his shoes and was teaching the greater number of his former pupils. Financial difficulties again stared him in the face; the pack-horse on which he had counted for his homeward journey was seized by ruthless creditors; but mine host

of the inn gave board and lodgings on the easy terms of "pay when you like," and the unfortunate secretary retained the use of his two riding-horses by the ingenious device, on which even a bankruptcy judge would bestow an approving smile, of transferring them to a creditor who resided at Reikiavik on condition that the debtor should be allowed to take them himself to their destination. It was something to be saved from what to an Icander is the depth of degradation—the necessity of travelling on foot; but, even with the aid of the two steeds, the journey to Reikiavik was no joke. With unlimited means, and at the height of the summer season, travelling in Iceland is not luxurious; in the month of April, with a shallow purse, it involves filth and discomfort unutterable. Mounted on half his assets, our author travelled in company with the postman, and his description of some of the quarters at which he was compelled to put up in the course of his twelve days' ride—notably of a hovel called Bakkasel—leads to the conclusion that among the indispensable equipments for a journey at that time and by that route ought to be reckoned the stomach of an ostrich, the hide of a rhinoceros, and, finally, what Aristophanes calls a *βίνα μη τετραμήνην*. By dint of hard riding, and, when the sorely-pressed steeds gave in, of hard rowing, Reikiavik was reached before the steamer left, and there was time enough to make the necessary enquiries for letters and property. After a long search, the former were found at the bottom of two drysalter's cases, huddled pell-mell together, with or without envelopes, and glued together by some sticky substance which was conjectured to possess disinfectant qualities. It would appear that the *poste restante* is one of the Icelandic institutions which are still capable of improvement. As for the stores which ought to have maintained this martyr to joint-stock enterprise through the winter; tea and preserved vegetables had formed with arsenical soap a close alliance which materially interfered with their value as articles of food, but at the bottom of all were found two plum puddings which were still eatable, and which were probably even more welcome after a fortnight of semi-starvation than they would have been if they had reached their destination in time for the Yuletide festivities. Mr. Lock's account of his Icelandic experiences ends with this episode, for the steamer conveyed him away from the Home of the Eddas and sulphur; and the next chapter, which describes a ride across the Sprengisandr, is from the hand of Dr. Le Neve Foster.

Ponies, sulphur, the verse and prose of Mr. Morris, and the millenary have quickened the general interest in Iceland during the last few years, and have produced a copious supply of literature on the island. Messrs. Maurer, Waller, Watts, Burton, and Trollope have treated of it from the different points of view of the historian, the artist, the Alpine Club, the traveller, and the *littérateur*. The facts of Mr. Lock having wintered in the island, and of his having enjoyed exceptional opportunities of becoming acquainted with the domestic and social life of the islanders, justify him in adding one more to the formid-

able list of books about Iceland; but it is a pity that he has not brought a little more literary skill to the execution of his task. His book is heavy reading, and, whether it be from defective arrangement or from lack of descriptive power, it does not add materially to our pre-existing stock of information or ideas. Neither persons, places, nor incidents are graphically described, and an oppressive atmosphere of boozing and dirt pervades the whole volume, and leaves an unpleasant taste in the mouth when it is finished. It would be unfair to blame Mr. Lock for the faults of his hosts, but we will hope for the credit of Iceland that it was with the seamy side of its society that he was brought most closely in contact.

A satisfactory feature of the volume, and one which contrasts favourably with the haphazard nomenclature of that most persevering and inarticulate of mountaineers, Mr. Watts, is the accuracy with which local names are given, and the fullness with which their significance is explained. The author has evidently studied his Cleasby and Vigfusson to good purpose, and he is justified in pouring down on the casual spelling, and still more casual accentuation, of an Edinburgh Reviewer the scorn which one who has not merely studied Icelandic, but instructed Icelanders, might be reasonably expected to feel. Occasionally, indeed, his philological zeal is a little confusing to the reader, and the not uncommon mistake is committed of supposing that a word may be translated by its etymological next-of-kin. It takes some thought to realise that "feechapman" means cattle-dealer, and a student of local institutions, even with the rape of Bramber present to his memory, would be puzzled by the functionary who is described as "rape-steerer."

The most useful part of the book is the small-print appendix, which contains a collection of practical hints about outfit, modes of conveyance, and so forth, and a list of routes, with fuller particulars about accommodation than are to be found anywhere else. These notes will be invaluable to the compiler of the future Baedeker for Iceland, and no tourist who intends to go farther afield than Hekla and the geysirs should omit to consult them. But he will do well to bear in mind that epithets of praise and blame are relative, and that the standard of comfort applicable to Icelandic lodgings is not high. The number of places to which the remark "accom. exc." is appended is so large, and the associations of the present writer with some of them are so far from Sybaritic, that he was for some time in doubt whether the abbreviated adjective signified excellent or execrable.

C. P. ILBERT.

Sketches and Studies in Italy. By J. A. Symonds. (Smith, Elder, & Co.)

THIS book is of a very composite character, ranging, as it does, from Antinous to Gaston de Foix, and from Milton to Alfieri. Its title is justified by a certain number of descriptive sketches of Italian places, such as Amalfi or Canossa; but the book also contains an elaborate essay on Blank Verse, and another on the debt of English to Italian literature,

while the most important paper of all is one on Antinous. We have here, in fact, a collection of Mr. Symonds' magazine articles for the last few years, with no very well-defined thread of unity running through them, and consisting of work of very varying degrees of excellence.

No one would be entitled to give an absolute opinion upon the value of the descriptive sketches of Italy without testing them on the spots described, but the large amount of this kind of writing which Mr. Symonds' books contain raises doubts which do not, perhaps, require special knowledge for their solution. Byron said, in his brutal way, "Description is always disgusting;" and the maxim is at any rate so far true that the only tolerable descriptive writing is the very best. If this kind of writing interprets nature and haunts the memory with subtle pleasure, as does the best descriptive poetry, it justifies itself—hardly otherwise. That mediocre descriptive writing should exist

"Non di, non homines, non concessere columnae."

Now, passages do occur in this volume, notably the account of Paestum and Amalfi, which have the needful exquisiteness and unity of impression. Others might be quoted which do not justify their existence by reaching the same high level, and there are some where all unity of impression is lost by a superabundance of commonplace historical detail. One cannot think, for instance, that it was necessary to tell the story of Canossa over again, or that Mr. Symonds improves upon Milman. In the few pages on the monument to Gaston de Foix there is not this incontinence of matter, and the result is a piece of writing which is a clear and faultless unity. The fact is, that Mr. Symonds' style, which reaches a high level when the subject is one that really interests him and calls forth his peculiar powers, becomes unduly flat and colourless in level passages. The papers, for instance, on Florence and the Medici are as dull as the most respectable of historians could have made them. There is, however, other historical work in the book which is in its way first-rate. The reader who would give Mr. Symonds credit only for a richly-coloured style and a happy copiousness in expressing commonplace ideas would wholly fail to do him justice. Mr. Symonds does well, often does consummately, what a crowd of writers attempt without success; and one main reason of this is, that behind all this appearance of ease and fluency there really is a great deal (though now and then there might be still more) of genuine study and prolonged thought.

Among the essays on purely literary subjects there is a paper on Lucretius, wherein it would have been well if Mr. Symonds had avoided the atomic theory altogether. Lucretius has been too often made the stalking-horse by which certain theories of modern science have been attacked or defended, and it is a real comfort to come upon a sane and delicate estimate of his qualities as a poet. All the more tiresome is it to find that Mr. Symonds has not had the self-restraint to leave the relations, such as they may be, of Lucretius to modern science entirely on one side. But there are passages of singular beauty and power in the essay, and the ele-

mental vastness and majesty of the poem are finely brought out. The essay on the debt of English to Italian literature will not win an equally cordial acceptance. Many readers will be tempted to say that what is true is very familiar, and that the only novelty is obtained by over-statement. An interesting and felicitous little paper is the essay on two modern Italian dramatists, Goldoni and Alfieri; but the most important of the purely literary essays in the volume are those on Blank Verse, and on the Blank Verse of Milton in the Appendix. In the first Mr. Symonds establishes the principle that the melody of blank verse depends on the rhetoric of the passage, that so-called irregularities are often beauties of the highest order, and that without such irregularities the verse is unmanageable and monotonous. The interest of such a thesis as this depends very largely on the passages chosen in illustration, and on the way in which they are handled, and there is certainly abundant evidence of delicate discrimination in this part of Mr. Symonds' work. We will only protest, in passing, against the verdict on Thomson's "stiff and languid blank verse" as much too general. It would be easy to point out half-a-dozen passages in *The Seasons* which should exempt Thomson from so sweeping a condemnation. Nor is it possible to accept Mr. Symonds' judgment on Wordsworth's blank verse as final. Mr. Symonds must doubtless remember the passage in which a critic whose authority will not, we think, be wholly without weight for him characterised such a judgment—which, without proof or the possibility of it, runs counter to a good deal of educated opinion—as "either a freak or a violence."

The essay on Antinous is a study of much interest, written with great care, and full of matter. Of the three alternative theories of the cause of the favourite's death, that of immolation is rejected, and the choice is shown to lie between accident and voluntary self-sacrifice—the latter being due to Antinous' desire to give himself as a substitute for Hadrian. If this theory is accepted, it becomes possible to explain in a rational manner the enthusiastic devotion to Antinous' memory, and the special anger which his worship roused among the Christians. The bearing of Mr. Symonds' argument would be inadequately shown by extracts, and the essay is well worth reading in its entirety. It is, however, necessary to protest, in passing, against the determined optimism of his views in one or two respects. For instance, in his summary of his results he says, "It is indeed something to have shown that the stigma of slavery and disgrace attaching to his name has no solid historical justification." It is necessary to say plainly, though reluctantly, that Mr. Symonds has shown nothing of the kind. Of a piece with this is his characterisation of the "calumnious insinuations" of Dio Cassius. The worst of it is that Dio Cassius is plain-spoken enough, as also is Spartianus. If these matters are to be discussed at all, let them be discussed frankly. A character of Hadrian, which comes in the course of the essay, is, in some respects, a brilliant piece of work, but is spoilt by a certain looseness and exaggeration

of statement. For instance, we are told that Hadrian "succeeded in re-organising every department of the Empire—social, political, fiscal, military, and municipal." Now Hadrian was undoubtedly a first-rate administrator, but this statement will nevertheless hardly bear a close examination. The remark has the same unfortunate generality as the well-known passage on the subject in Aurelius Victor. Putting aside the words "social" and "political" as too vague for their meaning to be precisely fixed and tested, we have the statement that Hadrian re-organised the fiscal, military, and municipal departments of the Empire. As to the finances, apart from the passage in which Spartianus praises his wise economy, there is nothing in the authorities to make us disagree with the conclusion of Caillet:—"Nihil maximi momenti ut videtur in vectigalium imperii ratione commutavit Hadrianus." As to the army there is, it is true, a strong general passage in Dio about his military reforms, in which, however, he specifies nothing, and both Fronto and Spartianus are full of praises of the excellent discipline he maintained. It can hardly be believed, but is nevertheless the fact, that the municipal re-organisation means nothing more or less than the establishment of curators and correctors to override the local officials—a measure which was first perhaps largely employed by Trajan and Hadrian, and the mischievous tendencies of which could only be justified, if at all, by the plea of necessity. Such exaggerations as these are hardly covered by the plea of absence from libraries and books of reference, which is perhaps a valid excuse for the substitution of "decemviri" for "decuriones" at the beginning of the essay on Florence and the Medici, and for the explanation of Podestà as indicating that the supreme magistrate "represented the imperial power—Potestas." Surely, if the current explanation of the term by reference to the passages in Juvenal—"Fidenarum Gabiorumque esse potestas"—and *Aeneid* x., 18, seemed to Mr. Symonds unsatisfactory, he should have given his reasons for rejecting it.

It may appear that to criticise a book of this kind as if it had the same responsibilities as a work professedly scientific is something like breaking a butterfly on a wheel. The great merit, however, of Mr. Symonds' books is that with all their charm and grace of style there is real work behind them. It is this, in combination with other rarer gifts, which makes him in some respects so well fitted to interpret the ancient world to modern readers, and he ought to do it without mistakes.

W. T. ARNOLD.

Notes on the Debates in the House of Lords, officially taken by Henry Elsing, Clerk of the Parliaments, A.D. 1624 and 1626. Edited by Samuel Rawson Gardiner. (Camden Society.)

MR. GARDINER, with a zeal for historical knowledge which does not himself only, but the age in which we live, great credit, has devoted himself with untiring industry to the annals of the seventeenth century. Hitherto the romantic school of historians have had things almost entirely their own way from the

death of Elizabeth to the final break-up of the Commonwealth. The men who have inherited the traditions of the Divine-right party have had the most to say for themselves, and the largest following has been theirs; but the hero-worshippers who see no faults in the strong and the revolutionary folk, to whom all democratic tendencies, however displayed, are sacred, have not been without disciples of mark. It has long been time that this should end, and the history of the Puritan revolt and the years immediately preceding it should emerge from the clouds of fiction into the light of reason. Mr. Gardiner has done more than anyone else to make us understand the early-seventeenth century; his clear and concise, though by no means short, books have made the old half-fabulous, half-mythic traditions impossible of belief to anyone gifted with the scientific spirit. The opinions of others are not of much moment to anyone, not even to themselves; but even those unthinking people who devour history-books with the same sort of greediness with which children listen to fairy tales cannot but be in some sort influenced for good by them. The work of the architect cannot go on, however, without that of the quarryman, and the way the quarryman does his work has much to do with the building which shall be the result of the architect's labours. Mr. Gardiner knows this, and has spent no little time in editing records bearing on the time in which he takes so vivid an interest.

The book before us contains most valuable materials for history; but if anyone opens it under the impression that it is a diary in any way analogous to the French memoirs, or even to the heavy pages of Narcissus Luttrell, he will be much disappointed. The journal books of the House of Commons themselves are more entertaining reading. A vague idea of its nature may be given by comparing it to the book which is commonly quoted as "Burton's Cromwellian Diary," but even that dull record of a portion of a nation's life is light reading beside the jottings of the Clerk of Parliaments for 1624. The importance of Elsing's notes consists in the fact that they furnish many details which the Lords' journals do not contain relating to a time in which the parties were forming that afterwards rent England into fragments. The bishops, so soon to be banished from that House in which it is not too much to say that they once were the chief power, are here seen ruling and talking with no fear of the catastrophe which threatened themselves and their order. Peers, who were hereafter to meet in battle as enemies, we see here either in agreement or differing but on the details of current business. It must not, however, be imagined, because these notes indicate little of a stormy nature, that the assembly to which they relate was practically unanimous, or that party differences were but of the mild kind to which we are accustomed. It is always foolish to speculate on how the stream of history would have flowed had some event happened otherwise than it did happen. We have far too much guessing of this kind in the current literature. We may remark, however, that Charles's wild hankering after a Spanish wife may well have been the cause of much that followed, and

that, if that farce had not been enacted, many a sad tragedy of after-years might never have been. The Spanish question was a much more serious matter than it has seemed to many modern historians. It is not easy to realise the horror that the fear of a Spanish Queen-consort had occasioned. Spain was then, to the understanding of the ordinary Englishman, the great anti-Christian and anti-social Power. More than half the world was already "Spaniolated," and to his eyes this incarnation of the powers of darkness was still on the increase. What the Moslem had been to Europe in the days of St. Bernard, that and far more, and with much better reason, had Spain become to the Protestants of England. We must not look on events from our nineteenth-century standpoint, but remember that the fathers of the men who were troubled by the threatened Spanish match could remember the Smithfield burnings when Philip was King, and that forty years had not gone by since the Armada sailed with its stores of racks, thumb-screws, and nameless instruments of torture. God had stretched forth His hand and sent a mighty wind to save England then, and yet in spite of all these horrors, in direct affront to God's especial mercy, England was, men thought, to have a Spanish Queen. Can we wonder at the violence of the war feeling, fanned as it was by the anger born of wounded pride of Charles himself, or the hateful spirit of persecution which was aroused against the English Catholics, who were supposed, falsely, as we believe, to have a secret understanding with the Spanish Court. In justice to Charles, it should be admitted that, hampered as he was by his own natural incapacity for effective combination or straightforward dealing, he did what he could to shelter those of the Roman obedience from the storm. Though sufficiently powerful for evil, his good intentions here, as in other cases, were of little avail in the mitigation of suffering, but they added not a little to that store of ill-feeling which went on accumulating until at length the thundercloud burst on the battle-field.

Though these notes are the dullest of dull reading, there is still not a page in which the student may not gather morsels of historical fact if he knows how to select and combine. The Star Chamber has been a stock subject for rhetoricians to declaim upon ever since it was swept away by the XVII. of Charles I., chapter 10. That all good men rejoiced when it fell is clear enough, but it is not so obvious as some have endeavoured to make out that, had it existed in more recent times, when the power of Parliament and the newspapers might have been sufficient to curb its excesses, it would not have been in some degree useful. In the earlier days of its existence it does not seem to have aroused bitter feelings. In the Stuart time it was little short of an unmixed evil. Its rulelessness, or want of rules that can be comprehended, is curiously illustrated here. A man called Morley was convicted of libel; his sentence was imprisonment during pleasure, a fine of £1,000, and to stand in the pillory. Waterhouse, a lawyer who had drawn up the libel, was also cast into prison, fined £500, and sentenced to stand in the pillory, but the pillory part of the punishment was remitted

because he was a "gentleman." This respect for gentle blood has always been a characteristic of Englishmen. The literature of the people was seldom without some touch of it; Robin Hood must needs be made out to be *de jure* Earl of Huntingdon, the Blind Beggar of Bethnal Green a cadet of the house of De Montfort, and, strangest of all, even adultery could not make the injured husband forget the exalted race of the wife he had slain:—

" 'A grave, a grave,' Lord Barnard cried,
 'To bury these true-loves in;
 But lay my lady on the upper side,
 For she came of the nobler kin.' "

One would, however, hardly have expected to find a court of law taking the popular view, which then, as now, must have seemed to all reasonable men a violation of justice. The Star Chamber, it will be remembered, became more "democratic" as its end drew near. Prynne and Lilburne, whose sufferings at the hand of that court have given them a place in history, were both gentlemen. Prynne, besides being a man of coat-armour, was a barrister; and Lilburne, though he had been an apprentice, it is said, to a cloth-packer, was a cadet of an old family in the bishopric of Durham. So proud was he of his social position that when, in 1642, he was indicted for high treason as a yeoman, he, at the risk of his life, refused to plead until the indictment was amended, saying he was a gentleman, not a yeoman.

EDWARD PEACOCK.

Lessons from My Masters. By Peter Bayne, M.A., LL.D. (Clarke & Co.)

It is difficult to take up this portly and well-printed book without a certain feeling of wonder, and still more difficult to lay it down without a recurrence of the same feeling. Dr. Bayne's masters are Mr. Carlyle, Mr. Tennyson, and Mr. Ruskin, and these lessons consist, in point of fact, of a lengthy criticism of the exegetical kind on the works of the three. The same attempt has been made at least once before, but that is a matter of no great consequence. The curious thing is that it should ever have commended itself to thoughtful and industrious persons as worth the doing. For it must be observed that Dr. Bayne makes no effort to present sharply and tersely his view of the influences which these masters have respectively exerted on their time. Such a thing might be premature, but could hardly be regarded as futile or superfluous. Nor does he endeavour to disengage, in literary essays of more or less exquisite form, the peculiar virtue of the three artists—an attempt of which much the same might be said. His book, bulky as it is, is merely introductory and commentatorial. He goes through the work of the three masters, and expounds it to his audience exactly as he might do in the case of writers far removed from that audience by lapse of time, change of manners, or difference of language. Now, the surprising thing is that such work as that of Messrs. Carlyle, Tennyson, and Ruskin should be thought to require anything of the kind. It cannot be said that it is not accessible to everyone. Any moderately skilled artisan for less than a day's wages can

now obtain the entire works of Mr. Tennyson. A slightly larger outlay, after a little patient waiting, at the second-hand book shops will give him a volume of "selections" which contains all the best work of Mr. Ruskin's best time. The third member of this trinity is rendered less accessible by his voluminousness, but yet a very small expense will give anybody the best books of Mr. Carlyle in possession. Nor can either of the three writers be said to require much exposition now, whatever they might have done some years ago. Two of them for half-a-century, the third for more than half that time, have been forming the thought and the language of contemporary England. The merest reader of the newspaper or the novel has insensibly drunk in at second, third, or tenth hand something of the spirit of each. Why, then, should he not go to the fountain-head instead of drinking out of Dr. Bayne's dish? We are unable to answer the question. In the case of the great classics of the past, the hand-book system, if often objectionable, has at least its excuses. In the case of the great classics of the present we fail to perceive any excuse for it at all. That anyone will be induced by Mr. Bayne's book to go to *Sartor Resartus*, to *In Memoriam*, or to *Modern Painters*, who would otherwise remain ignorant of them, seems almost incredible. That several people may consider themselves relieved by this second-hand knowledge of the duty of acquiring knowledge at first hand seems both probable and melancholy.

We have already hinted that this unfavourable verdict on Dr. Bayne's book might have been spared if it had contained any remarkable merits of expression or of view. But this is not the case. Dr. Bayne's work is generally sensible in thought and correct in expression, save for a frequent and ugly misuse of the word "linguistic"; but it is curiously devoid of distinction, either of idea or of phrase. Sometimes, too, we are perforce reminded of those unfortunate persons who endeavoured to prove to Lamb that it was impossible for Robert Burns to be present on a celebrated occasion. Suggestive of this is the passage where Dr. Bayne endeavours to show Mr. Carlyle that the cleanness of a prison may have a beneficial effect upon the morals of the inhabitants, and that in which he gravely deplores that Brandenburg should have been handed over to the Hohenzollerns without any provision for the preservation of possible constitutional rights. The same deficiency of humour and proneness to take things too seriously may be noted in his wrestlings with M. Taine as to the French critic's view of Tennyson. Dr. Bayne does not seem to be aware of the important precept which deprecates the bestowing of nods and winks, much more of more violent gesticulations, upon blind horses. Much of the verbal criticism upon isolated passages of Mr. Tennyson is both acute and sound, and in Dr. Bayne's remarks upon the relations of Mr. Ruskin to Turner he displays, as it seems to us, more distinctness of view than is discernible in either of the other portions of the book. But in truth it is not to any details of the work that we take special critical exception. Dr. Bayne has a right if he likes to join in the fashionable exaltation of *Aylmer's Field* and the

fashionable depreciation of *The Princess*. We have no objection even to his admiring *Sea Dreams* if he chooses. His contemptuous remarks on the second part of *Faust* are doubtless a mere following of the multitude to think evil, and not particularly blameworthy, or indicative of critical incompetence. Nor is his denunciation of the "hysterical adventures recorded in *The Holy Grail*" a challenge worth taking up, for the epithet may well refer to the Laureate's handling of one of the most beautiful and poetical myths that the world has known, and not to the myth itself. All these things are as one with us. The thing to which we object in the book is its general conception and tendency. Yet even here we are not unwilling to allow that Dr. Bayne may possibly understand his public better than we do. He publishes some letters which appear to show that his criticisms in their periodical appearance have excited considerable interest in the minds of several readers. To have excited interest on points of literary discussion is always a good deed. Perhaps, too, the boiling down of the *communis sensus* about distinguished writers when their influence has reached its zenith is defensible from the point of view of posterity. It may interest a student of literature in the twentieth century, or the thirtieth, to know what was generally thought about Mr. Carlyle and Mr. Tennyson towards the close of their career, and but for Dr. Bayne a good deal of groping in scattered publications might have awaited that student. But we cannot but think it the critic's duty to add something of his own to his dishes; and that something of his own, were it only in the form of a distinct presentment of the peculiarities of the subjects, we cannot find in this book.

GEORGE SAINTSBURY.

The Life of St. Hugh of Avalon, Bishop of Lincoln, with some Account of his Predecessors in the See of Lincoln. By George G. Perry, M.A. (John Murray.)

THE valuable material contained in the *Magna Vita* of Hugh of Avalon, Bishop of Lincoln 1186—1200, has too long remained in the obscurity of the Latin text, from which it now emerges through the valuable labours of Canon Perry. The Life was compiled a few years after Hugh's death by Adam, Abbot of Evesham, who had been intimate with the bishop during his lifetime, and was among those who were present, during his last hours, to listen to his remarkable dying confession. Its merits, as a specimen of the biographical literature of the period, were long ago pointed out by the late Mr. Dimock, the editor of the original text, and also by the late Sir T. D. Hardy, and it well deserves to be ranked with Eadmer's *Life of Anselm* or Milo Crispin's *Life of Lanfranc*. In preparing the present volume, Mr. Perry is indebted for some of his details to the *Metrical Life* of Hugh, also edited by Mr. Dimock, and to the notice of his subject contained in John de Schalby's *Lives of the Bishops of Lincoln*; but by far the most interesting and important portion of his narrative is derived from the *Magna Vita*. "Contrasted with most other writers of the Lives of Saints," Adam, he says, "stands well. He exhibits far more traces of humanity than

are to be found in most of them. And we cannot but be profoundly grateful to him for having left us the lineaments of such a character as St. Hugh, and for having preserved those graphic historical episodes which are to be found in no other writer."

Viewed in the abstract, the career of St. Hugh is a remarkable illustration of how high aims and an unselfish purpose, conceived in whatever school, gravitate by a natural law to beneficent and just action, and to a true discernment of the conditions of national welfare. Nothing, at first sight, might seem to augur less favourably for Hugh's discharge, at the period in which he lived, of the duties of a patriotic and enlightened English citizen than the circumstances of his early career and the monastic bias which he retained through life. A Burgundian by birth, educated at Grenoble and the Great Chartreuse in the austere observance of the Benedictine rule—a rule which he so rigidly observed that his whole life (to quote the expression of the author of the *Magna Vita*) was "one entire martyrdom"; from the Great Chartreuse transferred to preside over Henry the Second's newly-founded monastery at Witham—the most that such antecedents and historical experience would lead us to look for when he was finally elected to rule the great see of Lincoln would be little more than another example of that "senseless and excessive asceticism," as Mr. Perry justly characterises it, which passed for the *acme* of saintly perfection in those days. Yet at almost every important juncture of his career his conduct is a surprise, and a surprise which invariably increases our admiration. Called upon to watch over the temporal as well as the spiritual interests of a community among whom he was an alien by birth, and of whose language he was ignorant, his first step was to request Archbishop Baldwin to recommend him some "discreet and learned clerks" to assist him in his work. Indebted solely to Henry's influence for his preferment, he, notwithstanding, ventured to thwart the royal inclination on what was perhaps the most dangerous ground of all—the iniquitous forest laws—and confronted the insolence of the King's chief forester by a sentence of excommunication. Although fully conscious, from experience and observation, that the readiest avenue to public reverence was a reputation for working miracles, "he neither desired them to be imputed to himself, nor did he value them when asserted of others." At a time when political interests centred chiefly in the Angevin dominions across the Channel, and bishop and baron were alike only too willing to drain the impoverished English realm of its last penny, in order to send supplies to King Richard in his struggle with Philip Augustus, he denied the royal right to tax the national Church in order to carry on a foreign war, and the fact that his view ultimately gained the assent of the leading members of the English episcopate would seem to prove that reason was on his side. He disbelieved in amulets; and, ascetic though he was, he thought it far better that a priest should break his fast before communion than be tasked beyond his strength in the performance of his functions. Almost the only trait in his character, in fact, which distinctly reflects the superstitious spirit of

his age is his veneration for relics, of which, according to Adam, he was an eager and somewhat unscrupulous collector. As Mr. Perry observes, however, this feature so strongly "contradicts some of the most prominent and admirable parts of Hugh's character" that there seems good reason for believing that the subjectivity of the author of the *Magna Vita* has led him into considerable exaggeration in this part of his narrative.

It would seem, indeed, that in Hugh's conception of the religious life there was a power which enabled him to rise superior, not only to contemporary superstition and the traditions of monasticism, but also to the prejudices of race. His humane spirit led him to protect even the down-trodden Jew, and, when his bier was borne by princes and nobles to its last resting-place up the steep ascent at Lincoln, the members of the despised Jewish community in the city were prominent in their demonstrations of grief. Perhaps we gain, in this fact, some additional light as to the grounds of the want of sympathy that evidently existed between Hugh and his better-known contemporary, Walter Map; for while Walter was distinguished by the contempt in which he held the monasticism of those days, he was also wont, when justice in eyre, to declare (according to Giraldus) that to mete out equal justice to the Jew was an abomination.

That "of the erection of the whole cathedral church of Lincoln as it now stands" Hugh was "directly or indirectly the cause" is, in Mr. Perry's opinion, indisputable; and he also notes that Geoffrey de Noiers, the principal architect, was, notwithstanding his French name, really "a true Englishman." This affords a satisfactory explanation of the distinctively English character of the details, on which the late Sir Gilbert Scott so strongly insisted (*Lectures on Mediaeval Architecture*, i., 194—98) in his enthusiastic vindication of the cathedral as a unique and "complete exponent of English architecture throughout the whole duration of its greatest period."

If the career of St. Hugh surprises us when considered in connexion with his earlier training and associations, it is certainly no less remarkable when estimated in relation to the moral atmosphere of the times in which he lived. Monk, clerk, or layman, he seems to have surpassed them all. To vices like those which Walter Map so effectively satirised he offers a complete antithesis; while it is when they appear in contrast with a character so unselfish and modelled on so lofty an ideal that the worldly craftiness of Henry II., the vulgar fume of Richard, and the incurable levity and baseness of John come out in their true colours. If any schoolmaster should observe a scholar beguiling his leisure hours with the brilliant but misleading fictions of Scott's *Crusaders* or *Ivanhoe*, he could not provide a better corrective than by placing in his hands this very notable biography, which can scarcely fail to suggest to a thoughtful reader how much the warrior at Ascalon was surpassed by this monk from Avalon, who bequeathed to the land of his adoption, not a ruined exchequer, and long suffering and distress, but one of the noblest of her temples, and a no less enduring example of true moral greatness. J. BASS MULLINGER.

NEW NOVELS.

A Distinguished Man. By A. von Winterfeld. Translated by W. Laird-Clowes. 3 vols. (C. Kegan Paul & Co.)

Beau Nash; or, Bath in the Eighteenth Century. By William Harrison Ainsworth. 3 vols. (Routledge.)

Philip Lyndon's Troubles. By Edith Owen Bourne. 3 vols. (S. Tinsley & Co.)

Shadrach. 3 vols. (G. Bell & Sons.)

Looking Back. By M. A. Wackerbarth. (Remington.)

A Broken Blossom. By Florence Marryat. 3 vols. (S. Tinsley & Co.)

THE author of *A Distinguished Man* has been good enough to come to the assistance of readers and critics by adding as a supplementary title the words *A Humorous Romance*, much after the fashion and in the spirit of youthful artists in the nursery when they append the epigraph, "This is a Man," or "This is a Horse," to designs open to misconception on the part of beholders deficient in imaginative faculty. No student of Jean Paul Richter can doubt that Germany is capable of producing work of the sort, but it might not have struck anyone, without the help thus given, that the present story was intended to come under that category, for of true humour there is not a trace from beginning to end. Broad farce there undoubtedly is, most of it of the sort now relegated in England to the close of a pantomime—such as drinking a glass of Hunyadi Janos water in mistake for wine—and scarcely capable of eliciting a rare faint smile. Herr von Winterfeld must be a lineal descendant of that historic Teuton who was found jumping on the tables and over the chairs of his Parisian lodgings, and who replied to the questions of the astonished spectators by saying, "*J'abbrends à être fif*." Much of the story lies in the British Isles, whither two aspirants to the hand of a German girl are sent on a competitive tour by her father, and most conscientious efforts to be entertaining are made by the author in describing the misadventures of the pair, and especially of one of them, a dreamy, unready schoolmaster. But whatever is not mere pantomime business or very dull Baedeker is so curiously blundering as to divert any obtainable amusement from laughing with the writer to laughing at him; as when he gives us Gretna Green marriages nineteen years after their abolition, and represents the Mayor and Corporation of London coming with an address, bestowing the freedom of the City on a German butcher casually in town, and adding an invitation to a public banquet in his honour, because his trade-brand had been somehow found stamped on the cheek of an escaped burglar, and was supposed to have contributed to that gentleman's re-arrest by the police. It is difficult to think why the book should have been written; it is impossible to guess why it has been translated.

When it is remembered that Mr. Harrison Ainsworth began his career as a novelist years before the birth of many who are grandparents now, the vitality which he continues to exhibit is a literary phenomenon.

We do not mean that he still possesses the kind of power he displayed in *Rookwood*, *Jack Sheppard*, and his earlier historical novels, because that is inseparable from youth, and disappears along with it, but that no one would guess from internal evidence that *Beau Nash* is but one in a long line of books by an author long past his seventieth year. It reads, in truth, more like a comparatively early effort of an aspirant to literary honours, and is told in a plain, straightforward fashion; being scarcely a story, but rather intended as a series of pictures of Bath society when it was the most fashionable resort, out of London, in the kingdom. Nash, Warburton, Ralph Allen, the Princess Amelia, Fielding, and Richard Graves, author of the *Spiritual Quixote*, a character with whom Mr. Ainsworth has taken more pains than with any other in his story, are among the historical characters depicted. There is no attempt made at reproducing in the dialogue the diction of George II.'s time, and all the personages talk in Victorian idioms, which is a mistake, as the time is at once near enough to and far enough from our own to make local colour in language easy and desirable, while the sources of reference abounding are very accessible, notably in Richardson, Fielding, and Smollett. There is a curious anachronism in the story, namely, a conventual establishment in Bath, not very clearly defined as Roman Catholic or Anglican, but limited to the latter by the relations of the Rev. Richard Graves to it, yet of a type which did not re-appear after the dissolution of the monasteries till nearly a century later than the date of Mr. Ainsworth's story. It was hardly worth while introducing such an improbability for the sake of adding an effective scene or two.

Philip Lyndon's Troubles is a book on which plenty of honest labour has been expended, both in thinking out the plan and in carrying it into execution, but the very painstaking suggests effort too patently, and makes the story drag at times. The motive is a sufficiently simple one. A young surgeon, of violent temper, of very unfortunate antecedents, and weighted with a drunken father of his own profession, falls in love at first sight with a girl in the town where he has settled for practice, and determines to win her, in despite of her own reluctance and that of all her friends. How he speeds in his wooing is Miss Bourne's theme, and she is so much interested in that subject that she supplies two more simultaneous courtships, and a third at the close of the story, all ending in matrimony. The chief failure is in drawing the evil genius of the book, whose misdeeds in the past are not brought into sufficient relief, while his later machinations are very imperfectly indicated; the best parts, contrariwise, are the sketch of the too sententious and professional, though honest and useful, clergyman, and of Tom Lyndon, the mercurial boy-brother of the hero. But although the gradual reformation of a once fine character, spoiled by circumstances and by self-indulgence, yet chastened and purified by a true affection, is the main subject of the narrative, still it is not easy to believe in the perfect sunniness of a household with such a temper at its head, and the heroine's serenity, with such a charge on hand, does not seem quite so

assured, even after five years' marriage, as we are given to understand it actually was.

Shadrach is a book whose conception is much above its execution. The author has had glimpses of good ideas and situations, but lacks as yet the necessary skill to give them literary expression; and thus, although there are detached scenes and passages which are highly commendable, and the taste of the writer cannot be for a moment mistaken, there is a sense of inequality throughout, and a lack of finish amounting at times to crudeness. The title is supposed to be a child's pet name for one of the characters, a gentleman who is not exactly the hero of the work, but who is the good of angel everybody else, and whom the author desires to paint as befitting his name, because walking unhurt through the furnace of temptation. But, in fact, this aspect is not brought out at all. What Frederick Vere does is to give way in favour of a school friend, when he might have won for himself the girl by whom they are both attracted; and more than twenty years after to do exactly the same thing over again with the child of that marriage, whom he yields to his younger half-brother. Several of the characters are cleverly outlined, and attest real capacity so far, but the filling-in is in no case a success, and we are left to what the author says of the personages, and to what the personages say of each other, not to the evolution of their characters by their own acts and words, for coming to conclusions about them, having to take them on trust after all, because we do not really make acquaintance with them. Nor has the main idea of the story been achieved—that of showing the nobleness of a self-forgetting life—because the examples given of Frederick Vere's abnegation are not adequate to make it clear that indecision and easy-going had not as much to do with guiding his conduct as deliberate generosity. Much of the scene lies in Germany, and there is an implied familiarity with the language and habits of the people, on which, however, doubt is cast by the author's use of the word *Unterseen* twice to denote the invisible world. And as with the descriptive portions, so with the narrative. The author has got hold of one very good situation—that of an unintentional bigamy, where the missing first husband's survival is stoutly denied by his wife, and cannot be legally proved by the man she has inveigled into marriage, though he desires to be set free to form another connexion. But it is not well managed, and shows want of practice in fitting incidents together. The final verdict on the book, then, is that it is not a success, but that it displays sufficient capability of good work to justify hopes of something much better from the same pen after a time.

It is necessary to make a protest against the carelessness of publishers in matters which concern their own business. Authors, and especially lady-authors, cannot be expected to know details of the trade, and perhaps least of all the names of all the less conspicuous books of light literature, so that they are very likely to hit on a title which has been forestalled. Such is the case with *Looking Back*, for a story bearing the same title, from the pen of Miss M. E. Shipley,

was published a couple of seasons ago, so it was Messrs. Remington's business to know the fact and warn their client. Similarly, a novel of exceptional merit, called *My Heart's in the Highlands*, was issued by the late Mr. J. W. Parker several years ago, and another by a different firm only the other day, to the obvious prejudice of the earlier work, if enquired for. And a yet graver fault was committed by another house lately in suffering a novel to appear with the title of a living peer of the realm as its own fictitious title. But the blame to be meted out to the new *Looking Back* begins and ends with the publisher. For the author, high commendation is the just award. Albeit a very awkward form is employed for the narrative, that of two simultaneous diaries printed alternately and supplementing each other—an experiment which helped to sink one of Mrs. Craik's unsuccesses, *A Life for a Life*—yet it runs on freely and smoothly. There is a chronological gap in the middle of each diary, both of which are kept by the two heroines of the story; so that, while the earlier part gives the childish recollections, the later deals with their grown-up life. Both are good, but the earlier ones are the better, and notably that diary in which the doings of two clever motherless children of an abstracted scientific father are described. Erle and Margaret Cheviot deserve to rank with the children in Miss Shaw's *Castle Blair*, and if that be not high praise, it is hard to say what could be such; while if the companion pair, Vernon and Evelyn Lascelles, be not equal, yet they are thoroughly well drawn. The second part of the drama, depicting the relations of these four to each other in after-years, is a very clever story, and artistically complete in itself, its most subtle point being the manner in which the selfish absorption of the elder Cheviot in his chemical and metallurgical pursuits reproduces itself by heredity with variations in his children, Erle being wrapped up in himself under the pretext of Art, and Margaret making an idol of Erle to the hurt of everyone else. And the author's courage in not doing poetical justice is commendable and true to real life. The book is a good one, and deserves to live.

A Broken Blossom is chiefly noticeable for a very clever description of a clerical Pecksniff, not drawn to grotesqueness, but all the more life-like for such restraint. The Reverend Horace Lovett, chaplain to a little English congregation in the Walloon district, father of two charming daughters, and himself a man of venerable presence, saintly demeanour, and fervid eloquence in the pulpit, is simply a glutton and gambler, who is in debt everywhere, and cheats everyone who trusts him, even to the poorest villagers who supply his eggs and vegetables. The broken blossom is his youngest daughter, who believes in his unequalled excellence with all her heart, and who dies of the double shock of learning his true character, and the married state of a man who had won her affection under pretext of being free to seek her hand. However, she is not the heroine of the story, but plays a mere subordinate part in it, the chief place being occupied by the narrator, a lady who boards in the clergyman's family, paying a hundred a year for very scanty accommoda-

tion, and finding out that she is reported by her host on the one hand as taken in out of charity, and on the other as a rich friend who would be answerable for his debts. There is a good deal of fine moral writing on the sacredness of the marriage tie and the beauty of womanly purity introduced, which may recall to some readers a certain famous passage in the *Fortunes of Nigel*.

RICHARD F. LITTLEDALE.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

History of Hertfordshire. By John Edwin Cussans. Parts XIII. and XIV. (Chatto and Windus.) Since our former elaborate review of this work we have watched its progress with much interest, and are happy to say that, instead of deteriorating, it has sensibly improved as it draws towards its conclusion. This proves that Mr. Cussans has not grown weary of his task, but has profited by his experience. For the magnificent double number before us we have nothing but words of unqualified praise. It comprises the entire Hundred of Dacorum, in which, besides others, are the important parishes of Berkhamstead, Bushey, Great and Little Gaddesden, Hemel Hempstead, King's Langley, North Mimms, Tring, and Wheathamstead. Aldenham, although only partly in this Hundred, is, for the sake of convenience, also included in this number, and the frontispiece is a charming full-page picture, in colours, of Aldenham House, the seat of Henry Hucks Gibbs, Esq. The other illustrations, though not numerous, are pertinent and attractive. The great value of the work, however, consists in the mass of historical and personal details respecting each parish which the author has judiciously arranged, much of which has never before been printed, and all of which bears the marks of careful research and conscientious labour. That Mr. Cussans has more than fulfilled the obligations of his original prospectus may be seen from the fact that, although he engaged to give no more than seventy-two pages in each part, this double number extends to 394 pages, or exactly 250 more than were promised, while no advance has been made in the price. How it is that this splendid volume can be furnished for the small sum of two guineas is a mystery which perhaps he and his publishers can solve, but certainly no one else can. We understand that the history of any Hundred may be obtained by those who do not care to possess the complete work, and, as the number of each part issued is very limited, those who desire a complete and trustworthy account of the Hundred of Dacorum would do well to secure copies before the edition is exhausted, for it is safe to say that after that the market value of a stray copy will be doubled, if not quadrupled. One more Hundred, that of Cashio, including St. Albans, remains to be dealt with, and of this a considerable portion is already printed. When the whole work is completed, the publishers may be congratulated on having produced a County History the merits of which have never been excelled, and the typographical execution of which has never been equalled.

Conversion of the West.—The Slavs. By the Rev. G. F. Maclear, D.D. (S. P. C. K.) This little book must, of course, be regarded rather as a work of edification than of history, and a good many of its quotations, such as those from Ruskin, Max Müller, George Eliot, and Prof. Mozley, have often but a slight connexion with the subject compared to the space they occupy in the book. It is almost entirely compiled from English or translated works. For instance, Milman's *Latin Christianity* is referred to for the Hungarian inroads. Robertson's *History of the Christian Church*, Dr. Latham's *Russian and*

Turk, Sheppard's *Fall of Rome and Rise of the Nationalities*, together with Milman's *Latin Christianity*, Dean Stanley's *Eastern Church*, and Smith's *Gibbon*, are his chief authorities. At the same time the author, or rather the authors, have read the Lectures of Krasinski and of Dr. Vilhelm Thomsen, and have directed their course pretty successfully among the numerous pitfalls with which Slavonic antiquities abound; yet, as their authorities are mostly either Slavs or Slavophiles, the representation of the Slavonic peoples is somewhat one-sided. Schafarik's picture of his heathen ancestors is admitted by Slavonic writers themselves to be too idyllic. As a matter of fact, although the Slavs cultivated the waste places of the Balkan peninsula, these were for the most part wastes which they had themselves first made. It was not so much the "martial instinct" in which they were deficient (p. 20) as the political instinct required to form and keep together States capable of defending themselves against foreign aggression. In his description (pp. 40–42) of the existence of a sacerdotal caste, Dr. Maclear appears to have generalised too freely from the case of the Baltic Slavs. M. Jirecek, in his excellent *Geschichte der Bulgaren* (p. 102), expressly says that it was only among these latter that such a caste developed itself. Nor do we quite see the force of the remark (p. 44) that the missionaries avoided creating unnecessary prejudice by "adopting the general term for 'deity' in the Slavonic tongue, i.e., *Bog* or *Bogu*." The missionaries among the Teutonic and Turanian peoples of Europe did the same thing when they adopted *Gott*, *Isten*, *Jumala*, &c. The Turanian peoples—Hungarians, Bulgarians, &c.—are, of course, represented very unfavourably. The brief statement in p. 78 might lead the unwary reader to suppose that St. Stephen's successor was a pagan. In the account of the conversion of the Bulgarians, our author is misled by Milman. The picture of the *Last Judgment* was painted after the conversion of Bogoris, and the painter was merely the namesake of the brother of St. Cyril. The comparison of the Laplanders to the heathen Slavs strikes one as rather forced. Considering the character and purpose of the book, it is, perhaps, hypercritical to urge that the worldly—i.e., political—motives which made the Slav princes in many cases so eager to Christianise their subjects are not brought out with sufficient clearness. On the whole, however, this volume of Dr. Maclear's is marked by the same fairness which characterised his previous volumes in the same series.

Maria Stuart, von Arnold Gaedeke (Heidelberg), is a book which will be more appreciated by German than by English readers. It contains nothing that is new, but only professes to give an accurate and careful *résumé* of the results of modern investigation on the subject. Perhaps the one thing of which Herr Gaedeke's pages convince us most clearly is the small importance after all of the pleadings, which have been so plentiful in recent years, for and against the character of Mary Stuart. After reading all that has been written, Herr Gaedeke rightly concludes that there is nothing better to be done than to proceed along the lines laid down by Ranke in his *Englische Geschichte*, and he contents himself with filling in the sketch which Ranke has drawn with the firm hand of a master. In fact, so soon as Mary Stuart is regarded as an actor on the great stage of European politics, we obtain for the first time a sufficient largeness of view to enable us to judge her at all. We then see that the question of the exact degree of her criminality is really beside the mark. It may have a psychological interest, and will certainly continue to exercise the ingenuity of those whose interest in history is the same as in the *Newgate Calendar*. But the judgment of history must always be

that Mary's personal levity of character overthrew her political plans, and inflicted irreparable damage on the whole of the Catholic party throughout Europe. Those who choose may busy themselves in determining the exact limits of her levity of character, but this is a matter of very slight historical importance. While Herr Gaedeke is engaged in showing the historical significance of the character of Mary Stuart, he is, of course, led into personal affairs as well. He is in favour of the authenticity of the casket letters, but is unaware of the discovery, made by Mr. Brewer among the Hatfield papers, of traces of the process of forging. On this, as on all other points, he gives a good and fair *résumé* of the present condition of the controversy. His book is a good one as far as it goes, but it adds little to the knowledge of those who have read Ranke and Froude.

Memorials of John Gregg, D.D., Bishop of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross. By his Son. (Hatchards.) Bishop Gregg had a long and useful and successful life. Though he saw the communion to which he belonged disestablished and more or less disendowed, he lived to set up the top-stone of the western tower of the new cathedral of his diocese, and his son and successor tells us that the central spire—nearly three hundred feet high—is rapidly advancing to completion. There is nothing very special in his career. He was a strong and not illiberal Protestant, and a zealous promoter of mental activity among the half-educated strata of his own communion, as is proved by the entertaining list of questions which he set his ladies' classes to answer.

Il Regno di Vittorio Emanuele II. Da Vittorio Bersezio. Libro Primo. (Torino: Roux e Favale.) Signor Bersezio has given his book a second title—*Trent' Anni di Vita Italiana*—which indicates the scope of the first volume better than does the more historical title which stands first. This volume, indeed, tells us nothing about Victor Emmanuel, but is dedicated to a sketch of the condition of Piedmont in the middle of this century. As such the volume is extremely interesting. It gives an account of Turin, its society, politics, and literature, with a biographical sketch of all the men who were famous in any way in the capital, even down to the favourite actors of comedy. The book is written in a kindly, genial spirit, yet with great discrimination. The difficulty that it raises in our minds is how many volumes the entire work will reach before it is finished, if every part of Italy, as it becomes prominent in the history, is treated with the same elaboration as is Turin in the volume before us.

Representative Nonconformists. By A. B. Grosart, LL.D. (Hodder and Stoughton.) Dr. Grosart has selected Howe, Baxter, Rutherford, and Matthew Henry as the subjects of the Spring Lecture of the Presbyterian Church of England. All were Presbyterians, and perhaps it may fairly be said that Howe and Matthew Henry were Nonconformists in the sense that they were quite satisfied if they could only go their own way and be tolerated, inside the Establishment or out. Baxter was only a Nonconformist by accident; he wanted to arrange things in accordance with his learned scrupulosity and his singular combination of anxiety against giving offence and readiness to take it. Rutherford was in no intelligible sense a Nonconformist; he was a member of a strict and dominant Church, and took full advantage of his position, and suffered patiently and bravely when "Scotland's covenanted laws" were eclipsed under the Restoration. There is, perhaps, also some misapprehension of the historical situation when occasion is taken by the admirable work of Baxter at Kidderminster to contrast the "humble Puritan" with the lordly Anglican. No doubt Baxter catechising

from house to house is humble compared with Jeremy Taylor or Andrewes preaching before Courts and universities; but the Puritan lecturer was an aristocrat compared with the ordinary parson, who had no ambition but to read the prayers and, perhaps, the Homilies. It was the Puritan gentry, not the scattered Puritans among the peasantry and artisans, who agitated for a preaching ministry and the establishment of Calvin's "discipline" as a substitute for what was then the new poor-law. It is the misfortune of the Puritan party that they succeeded in abolishing what they wished to abolish (including cricket and bowls on Sunday afternoons), and failed in establishing what they wished to establish. Howe is the representative of "sanctified intellect," apparently because he had a proper contempt for the unscientific secularism of his own day, which inspires Dr. Grosart with confidence to neglect the unscientific camp-followers of the scientific secularism which flourishes now. Beside which, Howe, to judge by the copious extracts, given, had a real hold upon the statelier commonplaces of spiritual theism. The author is laudably candid in explaining that Rutherford's letters, so full of "devout affection," are the only tolerable part of his voluminous writings—in fact, that in his public life "sweet Samuel Rutherford" was one of the most bitter and contentious bigots of a bitter, contentious, and bigoted age. The contrast between his letters and his polemics is accentuated in every way, and the contrast is not exactly common. Generally, asperity seems to dry up unction, though St. Jerome and, in some measure, St. Bernard might be quoted the other way, and neither St. Jerome nor St. Bernard had such a stumbling-block in his path as the Solemn League and Covenant. If Presbyterianism had been a traditional system, its representatives might have been expected to be nearly as moderate and accommodating as the most liberal of their contemporaries. (Not quite, for one of the attractions of the system was the strictness of its discipline.) But when almost the whole nation had just for political purposes pledged itself to a most exacting ecclesiastical programme, the more reason was there to suspect the sincerity of the majority, the harder it was for the faithful few to think of the smallest approach to toleration or compromise as anything but perilous backsliding in the "covenanted work of reformation." If Dr. Grosart is somewhat severe to Rutherford he is certainly indulgent to Baxter, who is judged as if it had filled his whole life to be the Apostle of Kidderminster and not a singularly fussy and undecided controversialist who spent most of his vast intellectual activity in harassing the world with unacceptable *Irenica*, and complaining that they were unacceptable. He had a better case when he complained of the tendency of the natural man to persecute the spiritual, which never showed itself more vigorous than during the heyday of the Restoration; and as Dr. Grosart wishes to glorify the cause of Non-conformity, he might have done worse than find room for a few quotations from the wonderfully forcible tract on *Cain and Abel Malignity*. On the whole, the freshest and the most interesting of the lectures is that on Matthew Henry, the representative of "sanctified common-sense." His *Commentary* was written for those who read no other book, and is a little neglected in a generation which requires commentaries for purposes of reference. Dr. Grosart's extracts are numerous and well selected—hardly, perhaps, so quaint as we should have expected, considering that Wesley thought the study of Matthew Henry had led Whitefield to the borders of buffoonery; hardly so edifying as to make us wish to resume the forgotten practice of reading Matthew Henry through. But they are quite good enough to justify Dr. Grosart in di-

lating with much complacency on the wide extent to which the practice was once carried, and the considerable extent to which it is carried still, and on its beneficial influence in keeping up a strong under-current of Puritan piety through the worst times of the eighteenth century.

To Lieut. Conder, well known from his connexion with the Palestine Survey, we are indebted for a useful little sketch of *Judas Maccabaeus and the Jewish War of Independence* in the "New Plutarch," published by Messrs. Marcus Ward and Co. The importance of the long period between the cessation of the voice of prophecy and the coming of Christ for the comprehension of the rise of Christianity is becoming more and more widely felt, and we are especially glad that the author has taken such a wide view of his subject, and given so much information on the contemporary social and religious life of the Jews. It may be that he has formed too low an estimate of Jewish religion—from the author's contributions to the *Quarterly Statements of the Palestine Fund* we should have expected a more sympathetic tone towards "the people of the Book." But it will be easy for the reader to compare and contrast more favourable statements—such, for instance, as those of Dr. Alfred Edersheim in his *Jewish Social Life in the Time of Christ*. A slight tendency to exaggeration (e.g., when a passage of Ecclesiasticus is compared to the Davidic Psalms), and a too reverential attitude towards tradition (the story of the seventy, or rather seventy-two, Jewish translators really ought not to have been raised up again), are the chief blots in this eminently readable work. That the topography of the subject is well cared for needs not to be stated.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE petition to Sir Bartle Frere for the appointment of a successor to the late Dr. Bleek as librarian of the Grey Library, printed in the *ACADEMY* of July 5, has been signed in Germany by Th. Benfey, G. Curtius, R. Lepsius, Friedrich Müller (Vienna), F. Max Müller, F. Pott; in France by Michel Bréal, Ernest Renan; in Italy by G. J. Ascoli; in England by R. Cust, Hyde Clarke, F. York Powell, P. le Page Renouf, and A. H. Sayce.

Burnham Beeches will be the title of a little volume (from the pen of Mr. Francis George Heath) to be published in a few days by Messrs. Sampson Low and Co. Among the illustrations will be included four wood engravings, copied, by special permission, from Mr. Vernon Heath's photographs of Burnham Beeches, representing Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN AND Co. have in the press a new volume of stories by Mr. Henry James, jun., which will be published in the autumn.

WE are asked to give some further details with regard to the *Genealogist's Guide* to printed pedigrees which Dr. George W. Marshall, F.S.A., has in the press. This work is the result of several years' research in nearly every book relating to British family history, and gives references, arranged under the surname of each family in alphabetical order, to the pedigrees contained, not only in county and parochial histories, publications of archaeological societies, heralds' visitations, the works of Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster, but also to privately-printed family histories, sheet pedigrees, peerage claims, and other books of value to genealogical students. It will be published early in August by Messrs. George Bell and Sons, price 27s., two hundred copies only being reserved for subscribers at 18s. We understand that the list of subscribers is almost complete.

WE hear that Mr. Christie Miller has completed one division of the catalogue of his famous Britwell Library.

WE understand that Messrs. Macmillan and Co. have in preparation for their "Golden Treasury Series" a volume of *Selections from Addison*, edited with an Introduction by Mr. John Richard Green. Mr. Green has by no means confined his choice to the well-known *Spectator* Essays, but has gone carefully through everything that Addison wrote, and picked out those productions which are most attractive either for grace of style or for interest of subject. The different essays will be grouped in subjects, such as "Sir Roger de Coverley," "Humours of the Town," "Humours of the Country," &c. This volume, which should be welcomed by all students of English prose, will be ready in October.

MR. E. WALFORD is preparing a new edition of *Percy's Relics* for Messrs. Warne.

MR. W. CAREW HAZLITT will soon send to press a second series of his *Collections and Notes of the titles and collations of old books*, which will make a volume of about 700 pages in double columns.

THE first half of the facsimile of the unique MS. of *Beowulf*—Cotton, Vitellius, A. 15—is nearly ready for the Early English Text Society. It will be transliterated, translated, and annotated by Prof. Skeat.

DR. KARL KEHRBACH is preparing a critical and chronological re-issue of Herbart's writings. The editor intends to incorporate in this edition various writings of the author until now unpublished. He would feel obliged to all Herbart students for suggestions, hints, &c.

A STATUE is to be erected at Paris to Silvestre de Sacy.

THE descendants of W. Grimm have presented the Berlin University with 6,000 marks to found a Grimm Fund to be devoted to prizes for the best works in the domain of German literature and modern art history.

MR. ROBY's long-expected *School Latin Grammar* is at last in the printer's hands, and will probably be published by the end of the year.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN AND Co. have in preparation a volume of Exercises in Latin Prose Composition, for the use of middle forms in schools, with Introductions and Notes by A. W. Potts, M.A., late Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and Head-master of Fettes College, Edinburgh, whose excellent *Hints towards Latin Prose Composition* are already well known. It is hoped that the book may be ready early next year.

MESSRS. CROSBY LOCKWOOD AND Co. have just ready for publication a new work by Mr. Michael Reynolds, author of *Locomotive Engine Driving:—The Model Locomotive Engineer, Fireman, and Engine Boy*; comprising an *Historical Notice of the Pioneer Locomotive Engines and their Inventors, with a Project for the Establishment of Certificates of Qualification in the Running Service of Railways*.

MR. STOPFORD A. BROOKE is revising his excellent *Primer of English Literature*.

MR. HENRY SWEET has sent to press for the Early English Text Society his edition of King Alfred's Anglo-Saxon version of Orosius's *Geography*, from the ninth-century MS. of Lord Tollemache, of Helmingham. The Latin original is printed opposite the Anglo-Saxon text, so as to show the additions and omissions that the King made to and in his source. A modern English version will also accompany the old text.

PROF. SKEAT AND MR. J. H. HESSELS have sent to press for the Early English Text Society

their edition of the Alliterative Romance of *Alexander*, from the Dublin MS. in Trinity College Library.

MR. HESSELS has also in type his parallel-text edition of the *Lex Salica* from thirteen MSS. In the commentary and Introduction he will have the valuable help of Prof. Kern, of Leipzig.

MR. WALTER D. STONE has nearly finished his edition of *Henry V.* for the New Shakspeare Society.

CONSIDERING the beauty of Chaucer's *Troilus and Creseide*, the small number of its MSS. and the fewness of the good ones among them have always surprised Chaucer students. Only a dozen MSS. were known, as compared with the fifty of *The Canterbury Tales*, and of these, only two (the famous Gg. 4. 27, in the University Library, Cambridge—which contains the unique first cast of the Prologue to the *Legende of Good Women*—and the Harleian 2280 in the British Museum, edited by Dr. R. Morris) could claim to be in the first class. But in the last Report of the Historical MSS. Commission, Mr. Horwood made known the existence of an old vellum MS. of the poem, probably written for Henry V., and now in the possession of Mr. F. Bacon Frank, of Campsall Hall, Yorkshire. Mr. Furnivall therefore asked for an opportunity of testing the worth of this MS., and for leave to print it in his Chaucer Society's parallel-text if it should prove a good one. Mr. Frank at once brought the MS. to the British Museum, and collation having soon shown how good a one it is—certainly one of the two best complete MSS. of the poem—Mr. Frank has kindly consented to Mr. Furnivall's printing it for the Chaucer Society as soon as the funds allow.

MR. FURNIVALL has in type for the society the whole of the remaining unprinted MSS. of the minor poems of Chaucer, so that the parallel-texts of all the old master's works, except his *Troilus* and *Astrolabe*, are done. But the autotypes of MSS. issued last year in addition to the texts will have to be paid for mainly out of this year's income, so that the minor poems cannot all be issued this year except for an advanced subscription. Prof. Corson's complete index to *The Canterbury Tales* is ready for press, and so is Mr. Walford D. Selby's *Life-Records of Chaucer*, from the registers of the Guildhall, Record Office, &c.; but these must stand over till the texts of the minor poems are paid for. The society needs more money-help. If only the public libraries of England supported it as those of the United States do, the society's way would be clear.

THE first part of *The Visitations of Cornwall for 1530, 1573, and 1620*, edited, with additional matter, by Lieut.-Col. J. L. Vivian, has just been issued to the subscribers. It contains pedigrees of the families of Achym of Pelynt, Arundell of Lanherne, Tolverne, Menadarya, and Trerice, Basset of Tehidy, Bennet of Lawhitton, Bevell of Gwarnacke, Blewett of Colan, and of other Cornish houses. Many of these have been brought down to the latest date. The work is published by Messrs. Golding and Lawrence.

MR. SWAN SONNENSCHIEIN has been joined in partnership by Mr. J. Archibald Allen, and the business will be henceforth carried on under the style of "Messrs. W. Swan Sonnenschein and Allen."

A COMMITTEE has been formed to which the Institute for the Advancement of Plain Needlework will be handed over free of debt on September 29, and a subscription list has been opened for the future maintenance of the Institute.

IN continuation of our remarks on the interest and value of Prof. Skeat's *English-Anglo-Saxon*

Glossary, we call the attention of Readers for the Philological Society's new English dictionary to the advisability of specially noting old equivalents for modern terms. Thus under *Contemporary* we would have entered Wm. Harrison's "My *Synchrone* or time-fellows can reape at this present [A.D. 1577] great commodities in a little roome"; under *Filial* we should like to see Barnabe Googe's "Feare is of two kindes. The one is called a seruile feare, the other a sonnely feare" (A.D. 1579); under *Domesticate*, Cotgrave's "make housall" of the house and home (1611): "*Domestiquer*, to tame, reclame, civilize, make familiar, gentle, tractable, housall"—and so on. We are sure that Dr. Murray will be only too glad of such material, and we hope the collection of it will result in giving back to daily use many of the strong, good words that we have so needlessly set aside.

IN the *Revista Europea* of July 1, Signor Capasso publishes part of a work which he has in hand, a monograph on the Life and Times of Fra Paolo Sarpi. The chapter now published deals with the Interdict of Venice; it is founded upon independent research in the Venetian archives, and promises well for the book of which it is to form a part.

THE current number of the *Revue Historique* has an interesting article by M. Thomas on the "Provincial Estates of Central France under Charles VII." He recalls an obscure part of constitutional history, shows the operation of the Provincial Estates in the period of their greatest power, and traces the causes which brought about their decay. M. Depping begins an account of the life of Barthélemy Herwarth, an Alsatian banker of the reign of Louis XIV., who helped Mazarin in his schemes and was raised to the post of "Contrôleur-général des Finances." M. Sorel gives some details drawn from unedited documents of the "Secret Diplomacy of the Comité de Salut public," and Baron du Casse continues his publication of documents relating to Napoleon I. and King Joseph.

THE long-expected map of Western Palestine, prepared on the basis of the Survey undertaken by the Exploration Fund, will soon be in the hands of the public. The first issue will be a large-paper edition in quarto, the subscription price of which will be twelve guineas. The number of copies of this preliminary edition is limited to 250. The American Survey map of Eastern Palestine will appear in the same form a little later. The same *Quarterly Statement* of the Fund which contains this news has also a valuable report by the Rev. H. D. Rawnsley, identifying the "Cliff Rimmon" (Judges xx., 47), in which six hundred Benjamites "abode six months," with a cavern in the "cliff of naked rock" on the southern side of the Wady Suweinit. Thus a fresh evidence is produced of the topographical accuracy of the Hebrew narratives.

M. FURCHHEIM, of Naples, is about to issue a bibliographical work, enumerating all the books, &c., that have been written concerning Pompeii and Vesuvius. The title will be *Bibliotheca Pompeiana*.

A COLLECTION of dramas and short stories by Auerbach will shortly be published under the title of *Unterwegs*.

THE *Deutsches Montagsblatt* asserts confidently that the lost memoirs of Heine are in the possession of the Austrian Finance Ministry, and relates in detail how they came there. The MS. was given by Heine to his brother Gustav as a pledge for money advanced. The money not being repaid before the poet's death, the brother, being in favour with the Court of Vienna and desirous so to remain, offered the precious MSS. to the Court. Their destruction was decreed, but they happily escaped this fate.

Heine's widow and his biographer, Adolf Strodtmann, endeavoured in vain to rescue these treasures. It is said that the MS. deals with Heine's childhood and boyhood, his residence in Berlin and Göttingen, and the first years of his Paris sojourn, covering the period from 1800 to 1836. Besides this there are some satirical poems directed against the House of Hapsburg and describing the Vienna March Revolution.

THE number of the *Library Journal* dated May 31 contains a paper by Mr. Melvil Dewey on the "Apprenticeship of Librarians," and an elaborate paper by Lord Lindsay, M.P., on "A Proposed Modification of the Amherst Classification in Mathematics, Astronomy, and Physics," which has the advantage of being written by a distinguished specialist. Mr. Poole reports that five-sixths of the indexing for the new edition of his *Index to Periodical Literature* has been sent in, and the work of arranging has begun. In the department of Bibliography, the bibliographical supplement to the first volume of the *Journal of Physiology* is severely criticised.

WE have received vol. vi. (index volume) of Freeman's *History of the Norman Conquest* (Oxford: Clarendon Press); *Dreams of my Solitude on the Mysteries of the Heavens*, by Joshua Pruvot (Reeves and Turner); *A History of our People since Bible Times*, for Jewish Boys and Girls, by K. M. (Vallentine); *Locusts and Wild Honey*, by J. Burroughs (Boston: Houghton, Osgood, and Co.); *L'Athée*, par Léon Delbos (Paris: Leroux); *The British School Series*—4. *Fourth Reader*, ed. T. Morrison (Gall and Inglis), &c.

NOTES OF TRAVEL.

THE British and Foreign Bible Society are printing the Old Testament in Aneityumese, the language of the most southerly of the New Hebrides group, under the superintendence of the Rev. John Inglis. It is interesting to learn that the natives of Aneityum have paid the society nearly £700, being full value for the New Testament, the Psalms, and the first half of the Pentateuch; they have also collected money in advance to pay full price for the Old Testament, as soon as it is printed.

SIGNOR GIUSEPPE COLUCCI has just issued in two substantial volumes, at Genoa, *I Casi della Guerra per l'Indipendenza d'America*, a work which is based on the unpublished official correspondence of the then representative of the Genoese Republic at the Court of St. James'.

WE believe that the address delivered by Major Serpa Pinto to the select assemblage of geographers at Lord Northbrook's reception on July 16 on the subject of his recent journey across Africa will appear in the August number of the *Monthly Record of Geography*, and that it will probably be accompanied by a map based on material furnished by the explorer. We do not know how far Major Pinto's observations have been tested, but, if they prove correct, some alterations will have to be made on our maps. According to him, for instance, Shoshong, the capital of the Bamangwato Country, ought to be placed a whole degree farther to the east, an alteration which will take a large slice off the Transvaal territory.

AN examination has recently been made of the Maputa River, which empties into Delagoa Bay and forms the northern frontier of Zululand, in order to ascertain its capabilities as regards navigation. It is reported that in the dry season the river is navigable for vessels of small draught for a distance of sixty miles from the coast.

WE hear that the Free Church of Scotland have arranged for further journeys this year by their missionaries at Livingstonia, on Lake

Nyassa, in order to seek for a better site for the head mission-station, and, as the country improves in that direction, they entertain hopes that it may be found in the neck of land which separates Lake Nyassa from Lake Tanganyika. With the exception of Capt. Elton's party, no Europeans have yet attempted a land journey from the north end of the Nyassa; and, as their line of march was to the eastward of the neck of land between the two lakes, the country is absolutely unexplored. Three parties appear to be now converging on it, or, at any rate, will do so, if circumstances permit—viz., Dr. Mullens from Ujiji on the north, Mr. Keith Johnston from the east coast, and the Livingstonia missionaries from the south—so that ere long we shall have ample information with regard to a tract of country about which there has been much speculation. In approaching it from his side, Mr. Keith Johnston will probably pass along the upper waters of the Uranga or Ruaha (which, when united, become the Rufigi), where, according to native reports on the coast, Dr. Kirk says that the scenery is magnificent, and there are stated to be wonderful waterfalls and valleys enclosed by mountains.

INTELLIGENCE has just reached Mgr. Lavigerie, Archbishop of Algiers, that the Algerian Missionary Expedition under Père Livinhac arrived at the south-western shore of Victoria Nyanza early in January. The party appears to be in a state of great destitution, and had received no news from Europe for ten months. They have heard from Arabs of the arrival on the north side of the Lake of the reinforcements despatched by the Church Missionary Society through Egypt to the aid of Messrs. Wilson and Mackay. Père Livinhac has sent two members of his party to negotiate with King Mtesa as to their final destination.

In consequence of the difficulties attendant upon land transport in Africa, the International African Association have recently chartered the Belgian ss. *Barga* to take a full cargo of merchandise, intended for the use of the Belgian expeditions in the interior, from Antwerp to the mouth of the Congo. The *Barga* takes out in pieces a small steamer, three steam launches, and three flat-bottomed boats or barges of fifty tons each, none of which, it is said, will draw more than a foot of water. The steamer is intended to tow the barges up the Congo, while the steam launches will be chiefly employed in piloting, surveying, re-victualling, &c. It is hoped that by this means it may be possible to convey the supplies up the Congo to a point where they can be reached by M. Cambier and the other Belgian explorers. The little flotilla is under the command of Capt. Loesewitz, who takes out with him forty sailors accustomed to a tropical climate, among whom are blacksmiths, carpenters, &c., all under a three years' engagement. M. Th. van Schendel, an engineer, also accompanies the party.

At the meeting of the Academy of Inscriptions on July 4, a letter was read from M. Ch. Tissot, summarising the results of a visit to the valley of the Medjerda, or *Bagradas* (Tunis), in June 1879. M. Tissot followed the Medjerda from its mouth to the Algerian frontier. He examined the whole of the road which ran from Carthage to Hippo-Regius through Thuburbo Minus, Vicus Augusti, and Bulla Regia, and found the ruins of Bulla Regia (Hammam Darradji), Simitta (Chemtou), and Ad Aquas (Sidi bel Kâssam). He has collected thirty fresh inscriptions, one of which dates from the reign of Tiberius and the third year of the proconsulate of Vibius Marsus; another, of the reign of Vespasian, bears the name of a legate of the third legion hitherto unknown—Q. Egnatius Catus; a third gives the date of the construction by Trajan of the bridge of Simitta Colonia. A bilingual inscription, in Punic and

Libyan characters, was found in the ruins of a Byzantine *castrum*, between Bulla Regia and Simitta. Another Punic inscription, a rubbing of which M. Tissot has brought with him, appears to differ from the majority of those already known. Unfortunately, all the antique remains in this region are rapidly being devastated by the railway contractors, who use the stones for ballast.

MESSRS. WURSTER, of Zürich, have published a model of a volcanic island, prepared by Prof. Heim, of the Polytechnicum. The scale is 1 : 10,000, there is no exaggeration of the altitudes, and the colouring is done with care and taste. Models like these must prove invaluable aids to geological students, and their introduction into our colleges is much to be desired. The price—ninety francs—ought not to prove an insurmountable obstacle.

M. POTANIN'S work on Mongolia is in the press, and the map prepared by his companion, M. Rafailof, has been engraved. It is on a scale of 1 : 2,100,000, embraces the country between Urga and Manas, and abounds in details which have not hitherto found a place upon our maps.

WE learn from Cora's *Cosmos* that the members of the Italian Expedition are successfully prosecuting their labours in Southern Abyssinia. Signors Chiarini and Cecchi have gone south by an entirely new route, and when last heard of, they had reached Ganna Kaka, near Kaffa. The Marchese Antinori is perpetually on the move, and is gradually accumulating a valuable collection illustrating the natural history of Shoa. Captain S. Martini has left Zeila for the third time, with a large supply of stores. Interesting reports on the progress of the expedition have been received recently, and will be published in the forthcoming number of the *Journal* of the Italian Geographical Society.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN LADY BYRON AND MRS. LEIGH.

British Museum : July 12, 1879.

A correspondence between Lady Byron and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Leigh, will have so great an interest for your readers that I need not apologise for occupying your columns with the following letters.

They form part of the papers of the latter unfortunate and much-injured lady and her family which have been lately purchased for the British Museum. With them, your readers will be interested to learn, are Byron's last letter addressed to his sister, some of his poetical pieces in his autograph and in the writing of Lady Byron, and letters from different persons relating to matters connected with the poet and the publication of his works.

The writer of the article, "The Byron Mystery," in the *Quarterly Review*, 1869, p. 414, has printed some letters from Lady Byron to Mrs. Leigh couched in such affectionate terms that he thinks negative evidence can scarcely be carried farther. The letters which I now print do carry that evidence yet farther, and are, I venture to think, conclusive. The first one is written on Tuesday, that is, January 16, 1816, the day after she left her husband's house.

"Kirkby: Tuesday.

"My dearest A.,

"I arrived here last night, and was not disappointed by you. You cannot know the feeling with which I receive every mark of your affection, because you will not allow, what I shall always feel, that I have much to repair in my conduct towards you, for having ever pained you by mistrusting your kindness after such an experience of it. No; if all the world had told me you were doing me an injury, I ought not to have believed it. My chief feeling, therefore, in relation to you and myself must be that I have wronged you, and that you have never wronged me. You will wish to

contradict this, but my impression is not to be changed; so it is useless to say more of it than that it makes me feel I have no claim to what you give.

"My looks have disappointed my mother, but you have had little to answer for in regard to them. My mind is altogether so overstrained, and my body so weak in comparison, that if it were not one thing it would be another. I think much worse of my prospects of health than I usually avow. When I tell you that there are seldom two hours in the day when my head is not burning, you will conceive there must be a perpetual waste of constitution. I sometimes feel as if this could not go on long, but it is not one of the subjects of my anxiety—at least, when it does not make others anxious—and, dearest A., do not wish anything for me, except that I may fulfil my duties whilst I am amongst them, and render me more thankful in performing them by the comfort of being dear to one who feels for me as you do.

"The Hon. Mrs. Leigh."

The following letter is without date, but seems to have been written on the next day:—

"I have had worse than my usual waking-to-day, Augusta; I am not fit to have the management of myself, nor to be left alone, but Heaven will take care of me. I have not deserved to lose its protection—and perhaps all this may be its mercy. I have been endeavouring to write off some of my agonies, and have addressed them to B. in the enclosed, which I wish you to read attentively. God bless you and him.

"The child is very well, and begins to take notice. Tell B. (if you think fit) that I am unwell, but not seriously [*this sentence is struck out with the pen*]. No—I won't send the enclosed to-day.

"The Hon. Mrs. Leigh."

"Kirkby: Jan. 19, 1816.

"Dearest Guss,

"I was in a state of I know not what yesterday and could not write to you, nor shall I say much to-day. But you will want to know how I am. Well enough as the world goes—and I mean to break my neck upon my old horse which is here. I am waiting with some anxiety for this day's post, and really cannot say more. Pray forgive my taciturnity, which may soon come to the same degree as B.'s. Let me hear of his health.

"Ever thine,

"A. I. B."

The next letter, of January 25, is of great interest. The opening sentences will be recognised as those which have already appeared, as a complete letter, in the *Quarterly Review* in 1869, and again in Mrs. Stowe's book in the following year.

"Jan. 25.

"My dearest Augusta,

"Shall I still be your sister? I must resign [*these two words are an alteration from have resigned*] my rights to be so considered, but I don't think that will make any difference in the kindness I have so uniformly experienced from you.

"I follow my duty, and look to that peace which it alone can ensure, here or hereafter. It would have been deception and inconsistency in me to give advice or opinion to B. I have written you the few lines in the envelope to be shown, if you please.

"I am sorry, very sorry, to have occasioned you or other friends more than necessary uneasiness by the weakness of my mind during that struggle which is now past. I will not renew your anxiety in the same way. I have not heard from my mother to-day. Yesterday she wrote of you most kindly, and with the fullest sense of what you have been to me. I fear her nerves will not keep quiet much longer. If she should quarrel with you, think of it but as the misery of the moment. I know she will ever feel grateful to you in her heart—and it is one of the best, in spite of an irritable temper.

"It is often a great comfort to me to think that the approaching event will not be felt severely. Certainly, the heart will not suffer. So far from ever wishing to be the source of regrets, it would grieve me most to think that I should be a loss. The dispositions are so anti-domestic that I hope to be remembered only as a burden.

"Feelings must not now be indulged; but, whenever I feel at all, it will be as kindly as you

could. *Independent* of malady, I do not think of the past with any spirit of resentment, and scarcely with the sense of injury. God bless him.

"You must not let B. know the contents of this, as it would be disadvantageous before my father's letter."

"The Hon. Mrs. Leigh."

Could anything be more significant of the writer's views with regard to her approaching separation from her husband? But whether that separation was of her own or her husband's seeking need not here detain us. The sentence in this letter which will rivet the attention of all who read it is that in which Lady Byron declares that even "*independent* of malady," whether Byron be sane or insane, "I do not think of the past with any spirit of resentment, and scarcely with the sense of injury. God bless him." This is hardly the language of a woman injured with the deadly injury which we are bidden to believe was inflicted on Lady Byron. And what becomes of the theory that, after ocular proof of improper familiarity, Lady Byron hesitated to believe in the reality of the crime by the persuasion of at least one interested party that it was only the insane idea of a madman? If words have any meaning, surely this sentence disposes of the whole calumny and banishes it into the regions of after-thought.

The next letter, of February 19, has already appeared in the *Quarterly Review* for 1870, p. 231, and need not be reprinted.

The two concluding letters of this period are undated, but were written while Lady Byron was in town during the negotiations about the separation. The second one may have been written after she had given Dr. Lushington the last reason for separation, which so powerfully affected his opinion. If so, and if that last reason was what has been suggested, it is strange that Lady Byron should wish to consult Mrs. Leigh at such a moment.

"In this critical moment it would be impossible for me to speak on the subjects which I conceive you wish to discuss. And your difficulties would be nearly equal, since we might both be called upon to answer for words uttered in the most private conversation. This has been so strongly represented to me by Dr. Lushington that he positively forbids any such interview; which, however, I cannot refuse without the greatest pain."

"Yours ever affectionately,

"A. I. B."

"The Hon. Mrs. Leigh."

"My dearest A.,

"Hearing that you are going out of town, I must pray you to grant me what I refused, both because I cannot bear to think of not seeing you first, and also the grounds of the case are in some degree changed, as you will learn. Will you come to me here at any time in the course of the morning?—or would you like better that I should meet you at Mrs. Wilmet's?"

"Most affectionately yours,

"A. I. B."

There is at this point a break in the correspondence. But at the close of 1829 an event happened which led to a quarrel, as is told in a series of letters the copies of which remain in Mrs. Leigh's writing.

One of the trustees of Lady Byron's marriage settlement had resigned at a moment when an investment in a mortgage was being negotiated which would have very materially increased Mrs. Leigh's income. That lady was therefore very naturally anxious to see the business concluded. But the power of appointment of a new trustee was with Lady Byron, and she proposed to nominate Dr. Lushington. Mrs. Leigh objected to such an appointment on the ground that Dr. Lushington was a stranger to her, and no doubt suspecting that he would not regard the proposed investment favourably. Lady Byron persisted, nominated Dr. Lushington, and sent her solicitor to inform Mrs. Leigh. An angry correspondence ensued between the

ladies, Mrs. Leigh writing at first warmly, then indignantly, and Lady Byron soon lapsing into cold reserve, and changing from "Ever yours affectionately" to "Your faithful friend." I need give only an outline of the correspondence; and a few of the letters will indicate its tone:—

Lady Byron, Nov. 26, 1829: Dr. Lushington likely to accept the office of trustee. Mrs. Leigh, Nov. 28, 1829: Dr. Lushington a stranger to her; she could have hoped for the appointment of some individual personally known to her; suggests at least that Mr. Capron may be named solicitor to the trust for her protection. Lady Byron, Nov. 29, 1829: Sends her solicitor, who informs Mrs. Leigh that Dr. Lushington has accepted the trust, and that he did not approve the proposed appointment of Mr. Capron. Mrs. Leigh, Dec. 10, 1829: Asking after Ada Byron's health in a few lines. To this Lady Byron answers:—

"H. Hill: Decr. 11th, 1829.

"I thank you for your kind wishes for Ada and me. She is rather better.

"Am I to conclude from your silence that reflection on recent circumstances has not yet convinced you of the consideration which has been shown to your interests? Or am I rather to suppose that your mind is pre-occupied by the 'distracting state of affairs' to which you alluded? In the latter case can my advice or sympathy afford you any comfort? For I am always

"Your faithful Friend,

"A. I. N. B."

Mrs. Leigh's reply is as follows:—

"Decr. 12th, 1829.

"I am very glad to hear that Ada is better. I shall always take the same interest that I have ever done in her welfare and in yours, but I will not be so unjust to myself as to affect an acknowledgment with reference to late events which I cannot feel. On that subject I never can have but one opinion; and no future advantages I may ever derive from the late nomination can compensate to me for the appointment itself, the manner of communicating it, or the misery, harassment, and vexation which all the measures connected with it have occasioned."

"Having said thus much, I have done, and I beg you to believe that this honest expression of my wounded feelings is in no respect incompatible with the sense I entertain of your kindness to me and mine on former occasions."

"Ever yours affectionately,

"A. L."

No answer being returned to this, Mrs. Leigh wrote on the 12th January 1830, being anxious to know that silence was not caused by illness, which drew the following letter from Lady Byron:—

"H. Hill: Jan'y. 13, 1830.

"My silence is to be accounted for by your last letter in connection with the previous circumstances. You have left me but one course—a painful one to adopt, in order to avoid future occasions of such injurious misconception."

"To 'be kind still to Augusta' has been my constant endeavour—and you have not had the shadow of a reason for imputing any other motive to my conduct."

"Ada is in a favourable state. Accounts of her health will be sent to you when desired."

"Ever faithfully yours,

"A. I. N. B."

In reply, Mrs. Leigh wrote a long letter, on January 15, recapitulating all the facts; but Lady Byron, by a letter two days later, declined to discuss the matter any further. Then followed an indignant letter from Mrs. Leigh, of the 19th January, which, being unanswered, was followed by another, a month later, asking for a reply. To this Lady Byron's answer seems to have been a long and detailed letter, the copy of which is unfortunately lost. Mrs. Leigh answered it at length on the 24th February; and there the correspondence ceased, and the rupture was complete and destined to last for more than twenty years.

The writer in the *Quarterly Review*, 1870, p. 233, has stated that all attempts at reconcilia-

tion were refused by Mrs. Leigh. But the letter which next follows seems to point the other way. In 1851, when Mrs. Leigh was in infirm health and was in fact not far from her end, Lady Byron at length wrote as follows:—

"(Post Office) Brighton:

"Febr. 11, 1851.

"Private.

"Since the cessation of our personal intercourse, you have more than once asked me to see you. If you still feel that wish I will comply with it. We may not long have it in our power, Augusta, to meet again in this life, and to do so might be the means of leaving to both of us a remembrance of deep, though sad, thankfulness. But this could not be the effect unless every worldly interest were absolutely excluded from our conversation, and there were the most entire and mutual thoughtfulness. No other expectations must be entertained by you for a moment. On any other terms I cannot see you again, unless summoned to your death-bed."

"If you decline, these will be the last words of mine ever addressed to you, and, as such, I wish they could convey to your heart the feelings with which I write them, and am

"Yours,

"A. I. NOEL BYRON.

"The Honourable Mrs. Leigh."

By subsequent letters of the 30th March and 3rd April it appears that the meeting was arranged to take place at Reigate, in the presence of the Rev. Frederick Robertson, of Brighton; but it never came off.

In October Mrs. Leigh was on her death-bed, and Lady Byron's affection for her warmed again, as appears from a few short letters from her to Emily, Mrs. Leigh's daughter. One of them, by which she sent a last message to her dying sister-in-law, is as follows:—

"Moore Place,

"Esher,

"Oct. 4th [1851].

"Dear Emily,

"I am sure you will kindly send me some details of the illness which is still so distressing, and I have a request to make, if you can fulfil it without any possible excitement that would be injurious to your mother. Whisper to her from me the words, 'Dearest Augusta.' I can't think they would hurt her."

"Yours truly,

"A. I. NOEL BYRON.

"I am here till Wednesday. If you should want to communicate with me, don't hesitate to send a messenger."

The closing letter of this interesting correspondence will be read probably with some slight feeling of surprise. It gives a key to Lady Byron's character which will perhaps explain some of its inconsistencies. If, as she says, hers was not a nature in which affection could pass away, I think it is doing her no injustice to say that a perusal of the letters relating to the quarrel leaves an unpleasant feeling that she could, at least, conceal her affection under a cold reserve which must have been half-maddening to a more impulsive nature such as Mrs. Leigh's.

"14 Bruton-street:

"July 2nd, /52.

"Dear Emily,

"I found that Mrs. Villiers had touched, in conversation with you, on my conduct towards your mother. I did not wish it to be brought before you in any way, but, as this has been the case, I feel that I only can give the true colour to my own feelings, and, little as you may now be disposed to credit them, you may hereafter find, and, perhaps, from the letters in your possession, and which I hope you will not be induced to destroy, that I have given proofs of the truth of what I tell you."

"Before my marriage, when your mother was a stranger to me, I resolved to be to her as an own sister. Mine is not a nature in which affection can pass away. Nearly forty years have shown this in regard to her. She was, throughout, the object of my unvarying devotedness. It was her infatuation (pardon the word) not to recognise in me her truest friend—especially after she had, in one case, been saved by me from taking a step that would have

ended in irretrievable ruin to herself and family. Ask Mrs. Villiers if this were not so. I failed in other attempts to save her and her children; but there never was a time when her welfare was not my first object. I could not give up the rights of others or my own, and was, in consequence, forced into an apparently unfriendly position; but the closing circumstances of her life, and my previous wish for an interview with her, must prove that my affection had withstood every trial—all—and your expressions as to the effect of my last message upon her afforded me the consolation of believing that she was at last sensible how truly I had loved her.

"Pray spare yourself the pain of making any reply. I desire only to be permitted still to testify my good-will and kindest wishes towards you.

"Believe me, my dear Niece,

"Ever yours faithfully,

"A. I. NOEL BYRON."

There is only one point in this letter which remains to be noticed. The "step that would have ended in irretrievable ruin to herself and family," from which Lady Byron takes credit to herself for saving Mrs. Leigh, might perhaps have some dreadful meaning for those who want to find one; but the "rights of others" clearly indicates that the writer is referring to some matters of business, probably in connexion with the affair of 1830. If anything worse were meant, Lady Byron would not have had the indelicacy to even hint it in a letter to Mrs. Leigh's own daughter.

E. MAUNDE THOMPSON.

SELECTED BOOKS.

General Literature.

- BROU DE FOUGUIERES, L. *Traité général de Versification française*. Paris: Charpentier. 7 fr. 50 c.
 BRENDORF, O., u. O. HIRSCHFELD. *Festschrift zur fünfzig-jährigen Gründungsfeier d. Archäologischen Institutes in Rom*. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 10 M.
 STEEL, L. V. *Athena u. Marsyas. Bronzemünze d. Berliner Museums*. Marburg: Elwert. 1 M. 60 Pf.
 WERKELE, L. *Die Philosophie d. Schach*. Leipzig: Veit. 3 M. 50 Pf.
 WIGAND, P. *Der Stil Walthers v. der Vogelweide*. Marburg: Elwert. 1 M. 60 Pf.

History.

- DARESTE, C. *Histoire de la Restauration*. Paris: Plon.
 SCHAEFER, D. *Die Hansestädte u. König Waldemar v. Dänemark. Hansische Geschichte bis 1376*. Jena: Fischer. 12 M.
 STREHL, G. *Die Chronologischen Daten d. Polybios*. Berlin: Mayer & Müller. 1 M. 20 Pf.
 WALLON, H. *Histoire de l'esclavage dans l'Antiquité*. T. I. Paris: Hachette. 7 fr. 50 c.

Physical Science.

- KOBEIT, W. *Catalogue lebender Mollusken*. 2. serie. Frankfurt-a-M.: Alt & Neumann. 4 M.
 SACCARDO, P. A. *Fungi italici autographice delineati*. Fasc. 13-16. Berlin: Friedländer. 16 M.
 SCHÖGTE, J. C. *Zoologia danica*. 1. Hft. Copenhagen: Høst. 16 M.
 STRASBURGER, E. *Die Angiospermen u. die Gymnospermen*. Jena: Fischer. 25 M.

Philology, &c.

- BECHER, F. *Quæstiones grammaticæ et criticæ ad Quintilianum librum decimum*. Berlin: Weidmann. 1 M.
 CASCORRI, P. *Observationes Strabonianæ*. Göttingen: Ludewig. 1 M.
 GOLDSCHMIDT, S. *Præctica*. Strassburg: Trübner. 1 M.
 HAUPT, P. *Die sumerischen Familiengesetze in Keilschrift, Transcription u. Uebersetzung*. Leipzig: Hinrichs. 12 M.
 HOMMEL, F. *Die Namen der Silbergötter bei den semitischen Völkern*. Leipzig: Hinrichs. 40 M.
 HULTSCH, E. *Prolegomena zu d. Vasantarāja Sâkuna nebst Textproben*. Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel. 2 M.
 KANNENGIESSER, A. *De Lucretii versibus transponendis*. Göttingen: Ludewig. 1 M.
 LINCKE, A. *Beiträge zur Kenntniss der altägyptischen Briefliteratur*. Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel. 1 M. 60 Pf.
 RITTER, B. *Philo u. die Halacha*. Leipzig: Hinrichs. 6 M. 80 Pf.

APPOINTMENT FOR NEXT WEEK.

FRIDAY, July 25, 8 p.m. Quekett: Annual General Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BURNS AND WORDSWORTH.

Middle Temple: July 14, 1879.

Circumstances and a desire to see Mr. Jack's final paper on Burns's *Commonplace Book* in *Macmillan's Magazine* have prevented me from noticing until now Prof. Dowden's interesting letter (ACADEMY, May 31) on Wordsworth's sympathy with Burns. I do not regret the delay. In the current number of *Macmillan*, Mr. Arnold has stated in his usual perfect manner what was Wordsworth's supreme obligation to Burns. Mr. Jack has concluded his interesting articles, which appear to me the most valuable contribution that has been made to Burns literature since the publication of the work of Robert Chambers.

When I wrote of Wordsworth's probable view of Burns, I had in my mind, I confess, De Quincey's remark, "There never lived a woman whom he would not have lectured and admonished under circumstances that should have seemed to require it." I fancy Wordsworth, had he met Burns, would have treated him very much as he would have treated a woman. Supposing, for example, Burns had suggested to Wordsworth that they should enter Poosie Nansie's "change-house," and look on at the high jinks of the vagabonds there, is it not certain that he would, in horror at the habits and sentiments of the "randie gangrel bodies," have "rushed" the elder poet to the top of the nearest hill and there delivered to him a sermon on the text that "evil communications corrupt good manners," or at least have sought to persuade him, as he persuaded himself, that

"One impulse from a vernal wood
 Could teach him more of man,
 Of moral evil and of good,
 Than all the sages can"?

Burns might, and probably would, have succumbed to the resolute will and high moral purpose of his companion. But then we might not have had *The Jolly Beggars*, which, if not, as M. Taine holds, his masterpiece, is one of his five or six masterpieces.

Nor am I much influenced by Prof. Dowden's quotation from Wordsworth's letter on *Tam o' Shanter* to a friend of Burns. For one thing, there is nobody—not even Prof. Shairp—but in its humour and rush of narrative forgets all about the "serious drinking" of Tam and his "drouthy crony." My contention was, and is, that Wordsworth would, like the Professor of Poetry, have drawn the line of sympathy with Burns at *Tam o' Shanter* (he probably had some qualms about the *Cutty Sark* incident) and have felt justified thereafter in beginning to lecture. Even in the quotation which Prof. Dowden gives, with its laboured sentences and dilutions of Burns's lines, where is that "style of perfect plainness" with which Mr. Arnold so justly says Wordsworth did great things, and which, "we must remember, Burns used before him"? Wordsworth's head could not help being with Burns, even in *Tam o' Shanter*, but what of his heart? When Wordsworth thoroughly agreed with Burns, as in love of objective nature, he agreed with him heart and soul, and expressed the agreement in "the nobly plain style" common to both.

Allow me a Scotch "word in conclusion." Wordsworth's best pieces seem to me poetry for "the elect," for those who believe with Mr. Arnold that conduct is three-fourths of life, and walk by that excellent faith. Burns's poetry is for the "natural man" in every country and in every class. His great moral achievement is that he has—and let this be said in spite of Prof. Shairp—even through his failings in life and occasional coarseness in art touched to finer issues and roused into that hopefulness which is the beginning of self-help those men

and women whom we call "the residuum," but whom Mr. Bright once described more tenderly and, I think, more accurately as "Misery's sons and daughters, and the multitudes that are ready to perish." He will be the Poet of the Enthusiasm of Humanity till, as he himself would say, Humanity find a better.

WILLIAM WALLACE.

THE ENGLISH ECGLOGUE BEFORE SPENSER.

Helensburgh: July 14, 1879.

A noteworthy feature in Dean Church's "Spenser," in *English Men of Letters*, is the exhaustive account given of the contemporary literature. The Dean's readers may differ from him as to the estimate he gives, on some points, of Spenser himself, but they will hardly deny that he comes to his subject thoroughly well equipped. There is just one part of the book which seems to me, after a careful perusal, not quite so explicit as it might have been, and as it is the Dean's practice to make his statements. The account of the English Eclogue previous to the *Shepherd's Calendar* is too general to be of use to the uninitiated reader, and what is said of Alexander Barclay may mislead. It would have added to the value of this part of the monograph had mention been made of the *Eglogs*, *Epytaphes*, and *Sonettes* of Barnaby Googe, a little work which forms one of the most interesting numbers of Mr. Arber's excellent reprints. It appeared in 1563, being thus sixteen years before the *Calendar*; while it anticipates Spenser in the introduction of ecclesiastical questions through an allegorical plan. There is distinct reference to the Marian persecution in *Egloga tertia*—

"Such Shepe, as would not them obeye
 but in theyr Pasture byde,
 With (cruel flames,) they did consume
 and vex on every syde."

The practice, moreover, of breaking the long line into two which is illustrated here may have suggested to Spenser the metre he uses in the *July Eclogue*, which deals with Archbishop Grindal.

THOMAS BAYNE.

SCIENCE.

A Classical Dictionary of Hindu Mythology, &c. By John Dowson. (Trübner & Co.)

THE legends of the Hindu Mythology are so prominently represented everywhere in India that the most careless visitor to that continent cannot fail to have his curiosity excited; in Indian books allusions to this system occur in almost every line, and form the chief difficulty and cause of weariness to the student. It is therefore natural that attempts to explain this system should have been repeated from the sixteenth century to the present time. A mere list of what has been done would fill several pages, and nearly all is deservedly forgotten. It was not till the beginning of the seventeenth century that anything like real research was made. About 1630 an English chaplain named Lord, who was at Surat, and a Dutch chaplain named Rogerius, at Pulicat, on the Coromandel coast, wrote two treatises on this subject; that by the last is immensely superior to the Englishman's work, and is, even to this day, very valuable for South Indian Hinduism. Since that time much has been written, but very little better; one curious work, however, deserves brief mention, the *Mythologie des Indous* (1809), compiled by M^{me}. Polier from the papers of her cousin, the unfortunate Colonel Polier. She was a friend of the illus-

trious Gibbon, and from her preface it appears that Gibbon himself once thought of working up the collections of Colonel Polier, but that he gave it up on learning from the latter that he required his papers to be edited and printed, not merely made use of. These materials were collected at Delhi, Lahore, and Lucknow, and give a tolerably complete view of North Indian Vaishnavism. All these books were, it must be observed, merely representations of the mythology, &c., acknowledged by different sects in very different parts of India, and were entirely based on second-hand information; the compilers admittedly could not refer to any original authorities. But Hinduism embraces as many and as different sects as Christianity, and includes the religions of peoples with very different languages, and also of very different races. All these treatises were, then, merely partial expositions, and necessarily imperfect. With the study of Sanskrit, better work became possible, but the many real difficulties also became apparent, and, till the present book, nothing complete of the least value has been done, though there have been many valuable essays published on special topics and on comparative mythology.

Prof. Dowson has worked up the accumulated materials into a useful manual. It is needless to say that there are certain necessary limits to a book of this kind, but though it contains above 400 pages, some additions are, I think, desirable. The most complete part is what refers to the mythology, and here, all that is likely to be of practical use has been given. The comparative element is wisely passed over, but in a second edition, which will, there is no doubt, be soon wanted, a brief indication of the more important papers on this subject would be very useful; it would be impossible to state the different conflicting views that have been published, for that would require too much space. It is also to be regretted that the Buddhist mythology has been omitted; the Buddhist texts in Sanskrit are now more or less known, and no student of Hinduism can afford to neglect Buddhism. The same may be said of the Jains and their system, for it is far more ancient than most of what now passes current as Hinduism, and was once the chief religion in South India.

The part referring to the Sanskrit literature is not so complete, nor have, in many cases, the latest and best sources of information been consulted; but the difficulty of selection is much greater here than in respect of the terms of mythology. During the last twenty years our knowledge of Sanskrit literature has been enormously extended, and a small library of descriptive catalogues of MSS. and bibliographical essays is now available; the dates of the chief authors have also been determined with considerable accuracy. But Prof. Dowson has made little if any use of all this material, and contents himself with repeating in many cases the information that was available five-and-twenty years ago, but is now superseded. Thus (pp. 181, 291), he repeats the statement that *Sāyana* and *Mādhvacārya* were brothers; I pointed out, many years ago, that the passage on which this statement is founded is allegorical, and that *Sāyana* and *Mādhvacārya* are the same

person. At first sight, especially to those unaccustomed to the *Vedānta* style, this identification would present some difficulties, but additional evidence makes it certain, for another Sanskrit writer is now found to have used the same language in speaking of himself. Again (p. 181), it is stated that *Mādhava* was a *Tulava*; there is not the least foundation for this. He was a Canarese or Telugu Brahman, but it is impossible to ascertain exactly which. A perusal of the pages of the ACADEMY would have prevented the assertion on p. 241 that a *prātisākhya* of the *Sāmaveda* has not been discovered. Its discovery was announced last year, and the book has since been printed. Again (p. 370), the Grammar attributed to *Sākatāyana* has long been discovered in a complete state, but it is certainly not older than *Pāṇini's* work. So, again, the pages of the ACADEMY would have furnished some information about the *Talavakāra*, *Jaiminiya*, or *Sātyāyana Brāhmaṇa*. Prof. Dowson seldom or never gives the dates of the authors he mentions, but this can now be done in most cases with tolerable certainty. The names of some important authors, e.g., *Rāmānuja* and *Mādhvacārya*, at once founders of important sects and also voluminous writers, are missing. But, on the other hand, Prof. Dowson deserves great credit for getting rid of most of the euhemerist nonsense that has been so much in fashion—e.g., the theory that the *Rāmāyana* really represents the Hindu civilisation in its progress over the South. Unfortunately for this very plausible theory, it is now certain that the poem in its main features is far older than the progress of Hinduism in South India, which cannot be put earlier than the first centuries A.D., and which was peacefully made by Brahman colonies from the North, and was in no way a conquest. Similar theories about *Agastya* (p. 6) might well be omitted. A complete list of the Vedic *Sākhās* and *Sūtras* would be a valuable addition.

The bibliographical notices are rare; these might advantageously be increased in number and precision. Thus (p. 32) an English translation of the *Ātma-bodha* is mentioned; it might well be added that this is a mere adaptation of Graul's, and that it is in no way original.

To make room in another edition for the additions I have proposed, it would be as well to omit the geographical terms and those relating to religion. The first are vague, and are to be found in all the chief dictionaries; the use of the last varies so much in the different parts of India that it is worse than useless to give them in a practical work of this kind, and such technical terms as *ātman* need very long explanations to make them intelligible. Prof. Dowson renders this word (p. 32) by "soul" but for reasons given by Prof. Max Müller (in the preface to his translation of the *Upanishads*) this is not satisfactory. Missionaries, indeed, in their versions of the Bible in the Indian vernaculars—the Protestants copying their predecessors the Jesuits—have used it with this sense, but it only puzzles the natives.

Whatever conclusion may be come to as to the proper scope of this work, there can be no doubt that Prof. Dowson has rendered an immense service to students, and his Dic-

tionary will be an indispensable companion to all students of Indian matters. Students of Sanskrit at the present day are, by such books as this, placed in a very advantageous position compared with that which their teachers occupied some thirty years ago, when all such aids were wanting. The book itself, like all in Messrs. Trübner's "Oriental Series," is brought out in excellent style, and the misprints are, considering the nature of the book, very few. A. BURNELL.

CURRENT SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

The Chemistry of Common Life. By the late James F. W. Johnston, M.A., &c. New edition, revised and brought down to the present time by Arthur Herbert Church, M.A. Oxon. (Blackwood.) The personality of an author, in the case of scientific books at least, is seldom as prominent as that of the late Prof. Johnston in *The Chemistry of Common Life*. Written throughout, as it is, in the first person singular, with continual reference to his individual observation, experience, and opinion, this work seems almost to be the utterance of a living talker full of knowledge and enthusiasm. Prof. Johnston was an apostle with a mission to tell of the wonders in the common life of man; wonders unheeded by the insensible by reason of a faulty system of school-training. For, twenty-five years since, when this book was first published, the ancient universities had but newly established their examinations in natural science, and throughout the three kingdoms it would have been hard to find a public or private school in which systematic teaching in science formed part of the ordinary course. And even in these days, although much is being done to remedy this defect, a more general diffusion of knowledge of the principles and fundamental laws of chemical science is greatly to be desired. As a help, therefore, in the good work of popularising this branch of study we welcome a new edition of a book which has done good service in the past. On account of the style of the book the editor had a task of unusual difficulty to perform, but it must be said that he has done his part with much care and ability. Mr. Church states in his preface that it has been his aim to respect the method, the style, and the matter of Prof. Johnston's work. The larger part of the book accordingly stands as it appeared in the original edition, with only the insertion of additional matter necessary to bring down the record to the present time. In one or two places it may be noticed that facts or discoveries which a quarter of a century ago were new are still so described, but such blemishes due to oversight are rare. The book is full of interesting matter, treating of food, drinks, narcotics, perfumes, and the outlines of physiological processes in a pleasant, simple, straightforward fashion, and in language free from monstrous scientific technicalities.

A Dictionary of Chemistry and the Allied Branches of other Sciences. By Henry Watts, F.R.S. Assisted by eminent Contributors. Third Supplement. Part I. (Longmans.) Although the *Journal of the Chemical Society* furnishes a monthly abstract of all the more important memoirs which appear in foreign journals, it is highly essential that these should be classified and arranged in a more convenient form, and this is effected by the supplements to Mr. Watts' admirable *Dictionary of Chemistry*, which has now reached its eighth volume. Not only does it record the general progress of chemistry, but it further provides its readers with exhaustive articles on special subjects, which are frequently written by those men who have had most influence in the discovery or

development of such subjects. One of the most difficult matters at the outset of a research is to find precisely what has been done in the same direction by previous investigators, and for such purposes Mr. Watts' volumes are simply invaluable. If chemistry continues to progress at its present very rapid rate, the *Watts' Dictionary* of the year 1900 will be a series of volumes comparable as to size and bulk with some of those mighty series of tomes to be found in ecclesiastical libraries, such as the *Acta Sanctorum* or *The Compendium of Canon Law*. It is impossible to look into any modern record of chemical research without being struck by the enormous development of organic chemistry compared with that of mineral chemistry. In the present volume nine-tenths of the matter relates to organic chemistry. More than 150 pages out of 838 are devoted to benzene and the benzene derivatives. The important feature of this paper is a condensation of Körner's memoir on orientation in the benzene series, originally published in the *Gazzetta Chimica Italiana*, and but little known in this country. The paper is of a highly theoretical character, and is well deserving the study of those who are engaged upon organic research. Körner's treatment of the subject is eminently suggestive. Attempts have been made to determine the relative positions of the substituted radicles in benzene derivatives, founded on the constitution of the three phthalic acids, which is deduced from that of naphthalene, mesitylene, and quinone. But to this mode of treating the subject there are several objections, and Körner has attempted to determine the constitution of the di- and tri-derivatives of benzene by a series of transformations in which only six carbon compounds are concerned. Among other articles of importance in this volume, which only goes as far as the end of letter F, may be mentioned Dr. Mill's article on "Cumulative Resolution," that of Dr. Thorpe on "Flame," and those of Mr. Warrington on "Barley" and on "Forest Trees." The articles on "Cerium" and "Cerite Minerals," and on "Chemical Action" and on "Coumarin," may also be distinguished. An elaborate account of the Bunsen lamp flame, and the constitution of the gases at different heights in the tube above the air holes, by Blockmann, is given under the heading "Flame." The second part of this third supplement, F to Z, will appear towards the end of this year, and in it we are promised articles by Dr. Flight on "Meteorites," and by Dr. G. C. Foster on the "Dynamical Theory of Heat."

The Year Book of Facts for 1878. Edited by James Mason. (Ward, Lock and Co.) This work is by no means so complete as the *American Annual Record of Science and Industry*, and it is far more desultory in character. Beginning with the Human Race, the author passes on to the Animal and Vegetable Worlds, Geographical and Geological Notes, Meteorology, Sound, Electricity and Magnetism, Chemistry, Food Supplies, Medicine, Illuminating and Heating, Engineering, Mines and Mining, Machines and Machinery, Manufactures, Locomotion, Machinery of War, and Astronomy, ending with an account of the British Association. Of course, the attempt to crowd all this matter into a little over 200 pages can only result in the omission of a great number of important facts, and the book cannot be regarded as in any way a fair representation of the progress of the arts and sciences during the year.

Our Domestic Poisons; or, the Poisonous Effects of Certain Dyes and Colours used in Domestic Fabrics. By Henry Carr. (Ridgway.) This pamphlet is chiefly devoted to an account of the dangers which arise from the presence of arsenic, usually in the form of Schweinfurth green, in tex-

tile fabrics and in wall-papers. Many undoubted cases of severe poisoning have arisen from the use of such fabrics, and the sooner that the danger of using them is fully recognised the better. The arsenic dust which has fallen or been swept from a green paper may be detected in every part of the room, not only on the floors, but on the tops of book-cases, and of course it is continually moved by the air of the room. Thus it is inhaled by those who inhabit the room, and the effect is soon manifested by very decided results. The symptoms of chronic arsenical poisoning are at first apt to mislead, because they assume the form of an ordinary cold and cough, accompanied by dryness and irritation of the throat and headache. This is followed by general debility, restlessness, cramps, convulsive twitchings, and various other proofs of nervous disorganisation. Of course, those who are engaged in the manufacture of fabrics which are dyed by arsenical colours suffer still more. The aniline dyes frequently cause very painful eruptive effects; the use of red stockings or bronze-coloured gloves has sometimes led to severe blistering and swelling, the effects of which did not pass off for some weeks. A work which in a succinct and popular form would describe the principal poisons of all kinds which are most commonly met with in the ordinary arrangements of civilised life is a great desideratum. The only works which exist on the subject are lengthy treatises on technical chemical analysis, which are quite beyond the scope of the ordinary reader. At least, we might begin reform in the matter of domestic poisons by abandoning the use of wall-papers and dress-fabrics which possess the fatal bright-green colour—a colour made up of two poisons, and existing in the form of a loose powder which is easily rubbed off and carried about the air.

The Pre-historic Use of Iron and Steel; with Observations on Certain Matters ancillary thereto. By St. John V. Day. (Trübner.) It is curious to meet nowadays with a survivor of the old mystical etymologists of Jacob Bryant's school. Mr. Day finds the name of the fire-god *Agni* in the words magnet and magnificent, by the simple process of printing them magnet and magnificent, and calmly takes it for granted that, because the Ossethi tribes of the Caucasus call themselves *Iron*, this must have to do with their using the metal we English call *iron*. Yet the author of this wild nonsense has read Max Müller carefully enough to call him to account for contradicting himself, having reasoned in his essay on *Comparative Mythology* that iron was known before the Aryan separation because its names in the Aryan languages are similar, whereas in his *Lectures on Language* he argues that iron was not known before the Aryan separation, because its names in the Aryan languages are different. On reading the latter argument, one sees that Prof. Müller was led to change his early opinion by noticing that Sanskrit *ayas*, though in later times meaning iron, may previously have meant bronze, so that its etymological connexion with *aes*, *eisarn*, *iron*, breaks down as proof of the particular metal, iron. Mr. Day, who knows iron-work practically, has good information on several historical points, which induces us to notice his book somewhat long after date. While in charge of ironworks in South India he examined the processes of the native smiths, and decides that the famous iron lat or column of Delhi was made by welding on successive lumps of imperfect wrought iron as they came from the smelting-furnace. His comparison of the Chinese steel-making with that of the ancient Greeks may also be worth notice. Anxious to upset the theory of the Stone, Bronze, and Iron periods (which he seems to take more strictly than it is at present held by archaeologists), he goes into the evidence for the extremely ancient use of iron in Egypt. We did not know that anybody

doubted this fact, but at any rate the particulars of the piece of wrought iron from the Great Pyramid were worth recording, as was also the point that in Egypt iron washed out of the limestone matrix accumulates in fissures, so that, as among the Zulus, it may be heated and forged at once without previous smelting, a state of things which puts the discovery of iron-working in its simplest shape. This last information he had from C. Piazza Smyth, Astronomer-Royal for Scotland, author of *Our Inheritance in the Great Pyramid*, "wherein the deductions brought about by combination of mathematical comparison with sacred evidence lead to unfoldings over which angels veiling the sight with their wings might almost tremble."

SCIENCE NOTES.

Were the Ichthyosaurs viviparous?—This is a question which Prof. Seeley sought to answer in a paper submitted to the Geological Society at its last meeting. From time to time, specimens of ichthyosaurus have been found, with the remains of small saurians preserved inside the body-cavity. Against the supposition that these small ichthyosaurs had been devoured by the larger ones, it may be urged that their state of preservation is markedly different from that of the remains of food, such as the undigested residuum of fish, which are not unfrequently found in the stomach of the ichthyosaurus. Moreover, the position of the small skeletons in relation to the larger ones with which they are associated is tolerably constant, and is such as to strengthen the supposition that the relationship is that of offspring to parent. From these and other considerations, Prof. Seeley concludes that the ichthyosaurus must have been viviparous.

The Inclination of the Axes of Cyclones.—In the April number of the Austrian *Zeitschrift*, Dr. Hann reviews Loomis' Tenth Contribution, noticed in the ACADEMY, and uses this opportunity of expressing his views on Mr. Ley's theory of the lagging of the upper part of a cyclone. He points out that the changes in the mean temperature of a column 8,000 feet high must affect the pressure at the top, and that in the rear of the system, with a low temperature and north-west winds, the pressure above must continue to fall when it has begun to rise at the base of the axis. Moreover, he points out that, as on mountain tops pressure decreases in winter and increases in summer, so in front of a cyclone, where there is warmth, the barometer must rise, and in the rear it must fall. Accordingly, the minimum must occur later at the upper levels than below.

THE *Scotsman* announces that it is in contemplation to establish a Zoological station on the north-east coast of Scotland, in connexion with Aberdeen University. A sum of money has already been subscribed for the purchase of a moveable wooden building, with a boat and appliances for dredging, following a plan that has been carried out during the last two summers by the naturalists of Holland. The main object is to supply the University laboratory with fresh specimens, and to give advanced students an opportunity of undertaking independent researches. This is the first attempt to imitate on the coasts of Great Britain the permanent institution so successfully conducted at Naples by Dr. Dohrn.

AFTER nearly two years spent in its preparation, a new work on Ferns, written by Mr. James Britten, F.L.S., with facsimile coloured plates painted from nature by D. Blair, F.L.S., will be published shortly in monthly parts by Messrs. Cassell, Petter, Galpin and Co., under the title of *European Ferns*.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.—(Monday, July 7.)
SIR T. EDWARD COLEBROOK, V.-P., in the Chair.
Mr. Cust exhibited a map of Japan, and gave an account of the character and mutual affinities of the Japanese and Korean languages, based upon a very elaborate paper prepared for the society's *Journal* by W. G. Aston, Esq., of the Consular Service, Japan. Mr. Cust added that there was little hope of the publication of the late Mr. W. F. Meyers' *Korean Grammar*, which was announced as nearly ready before his lamented decease, as his MS. had been found to be very incomplete.

FINE ART.

Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire. By J. Charles Cox. Vol. IV. The Hundred of Morleston and Litchurch, and General Supplement. (Bemrose.)

WE have followed with much interest the progress of this important and valuable work, and are now glad to be able to congratulate its author upon having brought his labours to a satisfactory termination. And yet we can thoroughly sympathise with Mr. Cox when he says: "It is with genuine sorrow that I now write the last words. I could almost wish they were the first, for I leave the task with so much regret." This is the spirit of the enthusiast, rarely met with in this book-making age, and therefore the more deserving of hearty recognition. It shows itself, not merely in these valedictory words, but in every page of a book fraught with the results of honest investigation and extensive research.

The concluding volume is occupied with the ecclesiology of the central hundreds of Morleston and Litchurch, within which the churches of the town of Derby are comprehended. Of these, the most conspicuous is All Saints' Church, the tower of which (174 feet high) is a prominent and beautiful object in a landscape whose tameness needs some relief. The church was collegiate, and suffered greatly, at the suppression of colleges, from the rapacity of the Crown; but its post-Reformation sufferings at the hands of ignorant or bigoted incumbents have been equally lamentable. Mr. Cox gives a graphic account of the high-handed conduct of Dr. Hutchinson in 1723, who in the course of a few hours succeeded "in irretrievably wrecking the outcome of centuries of pious toil," and levelled with the ground the whole fabric except the western tower. In the church the best feature which took its place was some iron screen-work, wrought by a local artist named Bakewell, but much of this has been removed in the recent alterations effected by the last vicar, who, with inconceivably bad taste, affixed the marble altar-slab to the wall, and incised it with an inscription that provokes controversy. In the two "restorations" most of the old monuments have disappeared, but the church still contains the effigy of "Bess of Hardwick," and, though sadly disfigured, the once noble monument of William, second Earl of Devonshire. It must have gone to the heart of Mr. Cox, who is a genuine antiquary, to record these acts of Vandalism, but even they sink into comparative insignificance beside those effected at Kirk Langley in 1839. Sad havoc was then made with the ancient woodwork of the

church, which had been conspicuously beautiful; the old font was discarded, the pulpit removed to the west end of the church just in front of the tower arch, and, by an arrangement which we hope is unique, the pews were all made to face the pulpit and the congregation to worship with their backs to the altar.

Happily some fabrics have as yet escaped the iconoclastic zeal of the restorer, and at Morley we have an example of the more excellent way in which church renovation was carried out in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The history of Morley as detailed by Mr. Cox is full of interest. The estate has devolved to its present owners by lineal descent through the families of Sacheverell and Statham from Henry de Morley, who was living in 1280. Each of these families in succession was a liberal benefactor to the church, which owes its enlargement and improvement to the piety of John Statham in the fifteenth century, and its curious old glass to the taste and munificence of Sir Henry Sacheverell after the dissolution of Dale Abbey. The most interesting of the windows represents the history of Robert the Hermit, but another, in which the legend of St. Ursula is treated, is very curious. The inscription on the label above her head—"Sca Ursula cum xi m v'ginum cu angelis ascendens in celum"—as well as the number of virgins depicted, confirms the view that "eleven thousand" is a comparatively modern error, and one that has arisen out of mistaking the meaning of the *m*, which stands for *martyrs*, not *thousands*.

Mr. Cox's volumes are far too modestly described by their title, for, speaking generally, they form a tolerably complete parochial history of Derbyshire, and throw light upon a thousand other matters than the devolution of property and the architecture of churches. Thus, we have some most valuable proofs (deduced from the episcopal registers) of the almost incredible mortality from the Black Death in 1349; careful genealogies; biographical notices; traditions and folklore; and if, as is the case, some rather flagrant misprints have been allowed to appear in the text, we forgive them for the sake of the useful indexes with which this volume appropriately closes.

CHARLES J. ROBINSON.

EXCAVATIONS AND DISCOVERIES OF ANTIQUITIES IN THE TERRITORY OF SYBARIS.

I SHOULD have written some time since on the subject of the excavations of Sybaris, but preferred to wait till I had intelligence of real importance. In speaking of matters so generally known, I need not prepare the way for an account of the recent excavations by a *résumé* of the history of Sybaris. If any have forgotten that this powerful city of Magna Graecia was founded by Greek colonists about the year 720 B.C., and destroyed by the inhabitants of Croton about 510 B.C., all must at least remember the luxury of Sybaris, which has since become proverbial. The accounts of the writers who have celebrated the sources of the Crathis and Sybaris, which sprang from the sacred mount of Apollo, and, ever increasing the wealth of the fruitful country through which they flowed, united their marvellous waters beneath the walls of the city, may easily be re-perused by

everybody who will take the pains to open any book on ancient history. I have spoken of the waters as marvellous, since they possessed the power of imparting strength to men and cattle, and of rendering still fairer the tresses of the beautiful women who delighted to bathe in them. Of the great city, which had a population of 100,000 souls, which ruled over twenty-five cities of the neighbouring territory, and which sent into the field 300,000 combatants in the terrible war which resulted in its fall, not a vestige remains at the present day, nor is it known in what part of that desolate plain once stood the exquisite houses and palaces where men slept upon beds of roses, and where those renowned banquets took place to which the ladies were invited a year in advance, in order that they might have the whole time to render their beauty more overpowering. This fate, however, is common to Sybaris with many other cities, and it is only remarkable that, while scholars in recent times have pursued with so much zeal their researches in the famous cities of ancient history, Sybaris and the provinces of Magna Graecia have been temporarily neglected. They have not, however, been left always unexplored; on the contrary, excavations have been made there, but from the greater part of these science has derived little advantage; and, if we except the few researches made by the Duc de Luynes in 1829, no systematic investigations have ever been carried out in Magna Graecia.

When the Direzione Generale dei Musei e Scavi was established in 1875, one of the projects most warmly advocated was that of the commencement of the works for the excavations of Sybaris. A fixed sum was assigned in the Budget for the preliminary researches. The desire of Signor Bonghi found a powerful support in the assistance offered by Advocate Guglielmo Tocci, of Corigliano-Calabro; and when the Ministerial crisis took place, the project of the excavation of Sybaris was not abandoned, but was warmly supported by Signor Coppino. Many circumstances, however, prevented the commencement of the work before the beginning of the present year. Towards the end of January, Signor Cavallari, noted for his discoveries in Sicily, received directions to go into the province of Cosenza, and in concert with Signor Tocci, inspector of excavations, to make the researches and explorations necessary to discover the place where the regular excavations of the ancient city might be advantageously commenced. It seemed at first sight as though the spot most worthy of attention might be found with but little trouble. If the city of Sybaris was situated between the Crathis and the Sybaris (the Coscile of to-day), it was only necessary to fix on the point where these two rivers united their waters, and there at once commence experimental excavations. The journey was not a difficult one, nor is there now any need to entrust one's self to the traditional *diligences* of the adventurous journeys in Calabria described a thousand times in stories and novels. The railway, which skirts the coast of the Ionian sea, crosses the Crati a little below the Buffalora Station, from which starts a new line, which, passing through the country of Spezzano-Albanese and of Tarsia, runs up along the Crati, and ends at Cosenza, the principal town of the province. At a little distance from the station at Buffalora, or rather at a very short distance from the bridge over the Crati, the two rivers meet. But the country at this point is inhospitable and desolate, and no operations of the kind could be commenced without fixing their centre in Corigliano, the station of which lies more to the south, and crossing the torrent of S. Mauro and the River Malfrancato. From Corigliano, Cavallari proceeded along the provincial road to the west, and first halted at Terranova di Sibari, lying

between the Crati and the Esaro, which towards the north loses its name and its waters in those of the Coscile.

I do not think it probable that Cavallari was attracted to that spot merely by the name of the country, being fully aware that the words added to the appellation "Terranova" are not of very ancient date; nor could he be ignorant that all the traditions lead us to seek for the ancient city in the neighbourhood of the spot called "La Polinara," a little farther towards the north-east, and almost in the centre of the triangle formed at the present day by the course of the two rivers. Nevertheless, he wished, in the first place, to explore the parts which rise above these vast solitudes, in order to discover which of these heights had served as the acropolis, and hence in which of these plains the great city extended, and he decided on the Serra Polinara. This name has been bestowed on a group of small hills, beneath which, towards the east, lie the plain and the hamlet of Polinara, near the Crati. The excavations made in this place brought to light some fictile remains of great antiquity, which were considered by Cavallari to belong to the sixth century B.C. They consisted of an architectural fragment, which had formed part of some noble edifice, of a beautiful little female head, and some fragments of archaic vases, similar to those found in Syracuse and Selinus.

But the attention of Cavallari was soon recalled to the plain below. A spot beyond the Crati, towards the south, was pointed out to him, called "Old Crati," where the river still endeavours to find an entrance, perhaps because it was its ancient bed; and it at once occurred to him that this point might indicate the former course of the river before it was diverted by the Crotoniates for the purpose of destroying their rival. He was confirmed in this opinion by having observed remains of antique construction in a place called "Le Muraglie," on the right bank, which remains would have been found on the left bank according to the line of the Old Crati. Moreover, beyond the Old Crati, on the right bank, in the plain towards the south, remains of tombs were found; and from all these facts Cavallari believed himself safe in forming a very simple plan, which appeared acceptable for many reasons. He thought, in fact, that the acropolis was to be found in the Serra Polinara, the city in the plain of Polinara, and the necropolis beyond Old Crati, near "Favella della Corte," above the road which leads from Corigliano to Terranova. The extent of this necropolis could not have been unimportant, sepulchres having been found even in spots close to S. Mauro, on the left bank of the River Malfrancato.

But before taking measures, in the second place, to confirm the correctness of his theory, Cavallari's attention was directed to a fact worthy of consideration. It was observed that, on the right bank of Old Crati, rose at certain intervals sundry small elevations which, from their regularity, could at once be recognised as no mere hills, or natural risings in the plain. It was said at first that these elevations had been gradually formed by the work of shepherds, who had thus prepared themselves a refuge in the fearful moments of the inundations. But this explanation did not appear satisfactory, the more so as it was known from precise information that excavations had been made in one of these little hills at the beginning of the century, and that antique objects had been found there. The very name of *Timponi*, by which they are called, confirmed a suspicion that they were in reality huge sepulchres, such as those found in the East. In the little tract of country between the commencement of the so-called "Old Crati" and the railway, three of these *timponi* are found, one called "Timpone grande," with two smaller in close proximity, a second called

"Paladine," and a third called "d'Abbenanti" or "Timpone di Benanti," the name of the proprietor of the land. In the second of these *timponi*, the excavations above spoken of had taken place, and amid the earth used to refill the places explored fragments of vases of the fifth century B.C. were still to be seen. There was no further doubt as to the course to be pursued, and Cavallari at once began the excavation of the "Timpone grande." When Senator Fiorelli, on March 16, addressed the Royal Academy of the Lincei on the subject of the researches into the position of Sybaris undertaken on behalf of the Government under the superintendence of Cavallari, he exhibited a sketch of this "Timpone grande," executed by Cavallari himself, and indicating the discoveries made therein up to February 28. Twelve different strata had been found in alternate layers of vegetable earth and of charcoal, and in the latter had been collected many pieces of antique vases. The height of the tumulus was 8 metres, and the diameter at the base 28 metres. On March 22, after the removal of 2,000 cubic metres of earth, the tomb sought for was discovered. It was a very simple one, being a sarcophagus of tufa, with a lid of the same material. This sarcophagus rested on a base formed in steps. The news of this discovery was scarcely known ere the representatives of the municipality of Corigliano hurried to the place, and many people, in the hope of assisting at the discovery of a treasure, travelled a distance of many miles. But their hopes were sadly disappointed. When, in the presence of the Syndic, the inspector, and the crowd, Cavallari ordered the lid of the tomb to be removed, nothing was to be seen but a white sheet, completely charred, but in such a manner that the fragments into which it was instantly reduced clearly indicated its texture. Beneath the sheet lay a mass of carbonised matter, so that it seems that the corpse deposited in the sarcophagus had first been burnt, and, the fire being subsequently extinguished, the sheet had been spread over it. Even the wooden coffer, which was of equal size with the cavity of the sarcophagus, had been reduced to charcoal.

On searching amid the deposit formed by the remains of the funeral pyre, at the point nearest to the head of the corpse were found some fragments of gold, which were recognised as ornaments of a small box. The bronze nails of the box itself were afterwards found. The only objects of any value to be seen were two small silver plates, of the size of two large buttons, which were at the point nearest the breast of the deceased, and which bore two really beautiful female heads in relief. They resemble the splendid coins of Pandosia. But this was a small matter to satisfy the great expectations of those who had made a long journey in the confidence of finding vases of gold and silver, and other wonders.

But among the fragments of gold said to belong to the ornamentation of the little box, there was one which well rewarded all the labour that had been expended. It was not a matter which could be understood by the multitude, and Cavallari was content to show to a few the genuine treasure discovered. Near the remains of the skull was found a small piece of thin gold folded together, on which were visible some traces of Greek writing. The first folds being opened, it was seen that another small gold plate, also inscribed, had been wrapped up within it, which, being likewise folded together, formed a small square, less than 4 centimetres in length and breadth. This little parcel, everything having been re-arranged in the manner in which it was first found, was despatched to the offices of the Direzione at Rome.

The news of this discovery soon got abroad, and there was a general desire to know what was written on these tiny pieces of gold.

All expected to find something relating to the person, or the spot; and soon fresh revelations of the history of Sybaris were foretold. In Corigliano the citizens were invited to a lecture given by a professor on the excavations, and on the results derived from them; so that great eagerness was felt to know the contents of the two plates.

But, judging even from the first view, was it possible that they would speak of the deceased? Could it be supposed that, in an age so remote, when no examples of the violation of tombs were known, information respecting the dead would have been consigned to leaves so small, and concealed in such a manner that, before it could be discovered, it was necessary to scatter to the winds the remains of the person interred? If it had been desired to honour the dead, the inscription would have been placed outside the sepulchral coffer, so as to meet the eyes of all beholders. Even without reading the leaves, it might have been understood that they must contain some prayer, or some sacred record, for the sole benefit of the deceased. Those, indeed, who are sufficiently accustomed to the study of antiquities must remember that such a discovery was nothing new. Even admitting that the plate with a Semitic inscription, now at Syracuse, is the work of a modern forger, there can be no doubt as to the genuineness of the gold plate, about 4 centimetres long, and not quite so wide, discovered, it is said, at Petelia (Strongoli) in the neighbouring territory of Croton, in 1834. This passed into the hands of Millingen, and thence into the British Museum, and was studied by Gerhard and Franz. The latter published it in the *Bullettino* of the Institute in 1836 (p. 149), and afterwards re-published it in the *Corpus Inscriptionum Græcarum* (III., No. 5772). It was perceived to contain the response of the Oracle, directing the soul as to the manner in which it should act on its first entrance into the kingdom of Hades, in order to enjoy the benefits to be obtained by drinking the waters flowing from the spring of Mnemosyne. A discussion took place as to whether the reply had been given by the Oracle of Delphi or by some other, and the custom of placing small leaves of inscribed gold on the heads of corpses was spoken of. It was thus certain that these new plates would be found to contain similar responses or liturgical songs.

The decipherment, however, presented great difficulties. The smaller plate, which was contained in the other, was folded like a handkerchief. When opened, there were found eight lines written with a not very fine point. Many letters, however, were hidden through the creasing of the gold leaf. The larger plate, folded according to its depth, which is a few centimetres, contains eleven lines of excessively close writing, the letters of which, traced with an extremely fine point, are in some cases less than 2 millimetres high. In the upper lines the reading may be deciphered with some certainty, but, in the lower, it is extremely difficult to be sure of the signs, as the creases of the plate are larger. It would seem that the closest investigation will be insufficient to reveal the meaning of the contents.

Prof. Comparetti, to whom the copies which I made of these ancient inscriptions were sent, writes to me that he does not believe it possible to explain this larger plate, according to the appearance of the signs, by the common language of the Greeks. He believes it to be mystic matter, written by one initiated in the Eleusinian mysteries, and is confirmed in this opinion by the study of the smaller plate, written in Doric and in capital letters, in which a person initiated in the mysteries addresses the dead, who must himself have been initiated, congratulating him that, after having suffered the worst of evils, he had, from a miserable

mortal, become a god, having pursued the right path which leads to the fields reserved for the just in the bowers of Persephone. I will not stop to repeat the reasons adduced by Comperetti, in accordance with a letter from him read by Senator Fiorelli at the last meeting of the Academy of the Lincei. The publication of this letter, and of the original text, will give rise to much consideration, presenting valuable matter for the solution of the question whether the tomb explored belonged to a Sybarite or, as seems more probable, to an inhabitant of Thourioi. This city, which was formed out of the ruins of Sybaris by new colonists from Greece, among whom was the historian Herodotus, must have stood at a short distance off. If the discoveries made during the construction of the Buffaloria-Cosenza railway, in the vicinity of Spezzano-Albanese, are to be believed in, vast traces must have been discovered there of the necropolis of Thourioi.

It will be interesting to see a complete narrative of the excavations by Cavallari. He believes that the strata lying on the tumulus represent the various celebrations of the anniversary of the death of the man interred within. According to Cavallari, fresh pyres and libations must have been made, and the fire afterwards extinguished with earth. But on commencing the excavation of another *timpona*, that called "d' Abbenanti," the different strata began to be discovered, and in their midst were human skeletons, without covering of any kind. The excavation is not completed, and consequently the central tomb has not yet been reached, so that any judgment at present would be premature. It may be anticipated that the Government, at the beginning of spring, will proceed with the work, and explore by degrees all the tumuli so abundant on the banks of the Crathis. The objects hitherto collected have been deposited with the municipality of Corigliano.

F. BARNABEI.

FREDERICK R. LEE.

ONE of the most esteemed masters of a school of English landscape-painting which seems now almost extinct—Mr. Frederick R. Lee—died at the Cape on June 4, at the age of eighty-one. He was born at Barnstaple in Devonshire, and was educated for the army, in which he received a commission and served during one campaign in the Netherlands. His health, however, forced him to give up the military profession, and his taste led him to adopt that of landscape-painting. He first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1824, was made an Associate in 1834, and full member in 1838. His landscapes are usually of pleasant English scenery—broad meadows, rich pastures, avenues of trees, river and coast scenes—but he did not confine himself entirely to England, for among his views are two of Gibraltar, and a rather fine painting of the Bay of Biscay. His art, though much admired formerly, fails to excite much interest at the present day, when a totally different style of landscape-painting prevails. It is, in truth, very dreary and prosaic. There is generally an uncomfortable sense of unfilled space in his landscapes, suggestive of the idea of a board with the inscription, "Land to Let." But the greatest defect in his painting is want of warmth. He is chilly in the extreme, not merely like Constable, who took delight in shower and sun together, but as one who only saw Nature under the cheerless aspect she has worn of late in England. For many years Lee and Sydney Cooper appeared as joint contributors at the Royal Academy, Cooper supplying the cows to fill Lee's meadows, so that it used to be a joke that Lee "let his land to Cooper for grazing purposes." After a time, however, this method of joint production was given up, and

each artist followed his own bent. In 1872 Lee was placed upon the list of honorary retired academicians. He has not exhibited since 1870, when he sent *The Land's End and Longships Lighthouses*. There are four paintings by Lee in the National collection, and three at South Kensington, and a great many of his works have been engraved, for he was a popular artist in his time, though he has somewhat outlived his reputation.

MARY M. HEATON.

NOTES ON ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY.

In consequence of the recent death of Mr. Henry George Watson, C.A., a sum of over £11,000 has been placed at the disposal of the University of Edinburgh for the foundation of a chair of fine art. The amount was bequeathed by the deceased and his sister, the late Miss Fanny Watson, to endow a "Watson-Gordon Professorship of Fine Art," in memory of their brother, Sir John Watson-Gordon, President of the Royal Scottish Academy from 1850 to 1864.

An exhibition of the works of William Hunt and Samuel Prout will be held in the Fine Art Society's Galleries in November and the following months, the number to be exhibited being limited to one hundred by each artist. Sketches and pencil drawings will be included, as well as finished works. Mr. Ruskin will contribute his own collection of Hunt and Prout drawings, and will also write a series of notes on the artists and their works.

THERE has been lately acquired for South Kensington Museum a large and very valuable collection of objects of art of various kinds, which are now for the most part exhibited in the sections to which they severally belong. First, for their beauty and rarity, may be mentioned a splendid Gothic chalice of Spanish goldsmith's work of the fifteenth century, and a *pax* of the same period of most elaborate design. A later chalice, enriched with translucent enamels, and a fine silver-gilt dish of *repoussé* work, which was sold in London not long since as Persian, but which proved to be Spanish, are also admirable specimens of mediaeval art-workmanship. Of lace and textile fabrics there are many examples, including a magnificent piece of lace made for the use of Philip IV. of Spain; a large collection of embroidered vestments, such as scopes, chasubles, dalmatics, as well as several altar-frontals of rich design, and other ecclesiastical embroidery. Prominent among these stands a piece to which ghastly memories attach; it is none other than the rich silk-embroidered banner of the Inquisition which was actually borne on the occasion of the last Auto-da-Fé. Another and very different phase of art is illustrated by a garniture of three pieces of Sèvres porcelain; old *pâte tendre* mounted in ormolu of exquisite workmanship; a bowl of Japan lac mounted in perhaps still more admirable metal work of the same period; and two tripod ornaments of the same character, the whole forming a series which could not have been secured at any sale in Paris under a small fortune. The section of furniture also receives some important additions. Perhaps, however, the most noteworthy acquisitions are those made to the already noble collection of mediaeval and renaissance sculpture contained in the museum, which is the richest in this respect of any collection north of the Alps. To it will now be added an exquisite relief in alabaster, of the Virgin and Child, the work of a Spanish sculptor, Diego de Siloe, of Granada; a bust of a female saint in alabaster of the North Italian school, treated in a peculiar but impressive style; a graceful little terra-cotta female figure of the seventeenth century, tender and beautiful in conception and realisation; and a small but wonderful carving in wood—a statuette of St. Michael triumphing over the Dragon. Many other objects of great value and interest are also included, but space

will not allow of their enumeration. Altogether, this magnificent and varied collection is by far the most valuable and important that the museum has had an opportunity of acquiring for many years.

FOR those residents in London who were not fortunate enough to see Munkacsy's important picture of *Milton Dictating Paradise Lost to his Daughters* in the Salon of last year, there is now an opportunity, as this famous painting is on view at 168 New Bond-street, where also may be seen a small collection of works, principally by Austrian artists. Of Munkacsy's picture so much has been already said and written that the public is familiar with the treatment of the subject; there can be no two opinions about its being an impressive work. The attitude of the poet is grand and simple, while the whole feeling of the incident is thoroughly well given. The pose and entire expression of the daughter who writes from her father's dictation are perfect. One feels that she is almost over-strung in her eager desire to understand and transcribe aright, and that the least interruption would be fatal to the poet in the highly nervous state of inspiration in which he now is. The very atmosphere of the room seems still, and as though no one there dares to stir—scarcely to breathe or to whisper. The tone of the picture is in a low key, and well in keeping; the sunlight entering at the side, through the window, and falling on the bent head and figure of the poet, in such a manner as to save the composition from being heavy. Of Munkacsy's other pictures, all are cleverly painted, but not one of them approaches to the large work in beauty and completeness. M. Eugen Jettel has several pictures here, of which No. 20 is an amusing study of pigs trotting along a road, evidently engaged the while in friendly chat; but it is a pity that so little variety of tint is allowed that their backs are of exactly the same hue as the road over which they pass, so that, perhaps, they are only the ghosts of pigs after all. There is expression, too, in the cattle of M. Otto von Thoren, which turn their heads with a glance of reproach towards the herdsman who drives them from their pleasant pastures. Of the five paintings here by M. Francis Rumpler, the most satisfactory is *The Little Invalid*, which is smoothly and solidly painted; a *Portrait of the Artist's Mother* hanging near looks unpleasantly hard. M. Auguste Pettenkofen has two views (35 and 36) of *A Village in Hungary* and *A Market Scene in Szegedin*, both brightly painted. *A Landscape in Holland*, by M. Rudolf Ribarz, is a curious experiment in trying how far a painting of an unattractive subject can be made attractive. The artist has made choice of a day of shifting sunlight and cloud, so that the hummock of coarse grass which it pleases him to depict has many shades of green upon it, from the yellow green of the sunny parts to the dark green where it is under the shadow of a row of trees, and again in shade caused by the slope of the ground, so catching the cold reflection of the blue sky overhead on its polished blades. The most perfect paintings in the gallery are two called *Flowers* and *Violin and Books*. Both are small, and represent what their titles suggest, except that we are accustomed to call a bagpipe a bagpipe, and not a violin. The exquisite texture of the white satin-like cloth covering the table, with its straggling pattern of strange blue sprays, on which rests an open parchment book, and then above that the old musical instrument and a handful of flowers, is very charming. There are ten paintings here by a young artist, M. Camille Muller, of whom we are informed in italics in the catalogue that he is only eighteen years old and entirely self-taught. The subjects include flowers, portraits, a landscape, and a *Copper Pan and Fish*; this

last, painted by the artist at the age of fifteen, is undoubtedly his best production. In this there is some variety in handling, while in most of his other paintings there is the same touch all over, so that the effect is spotty; the colour is often bright and pleasing. The numbering of the pictures is exceedingly inaccurate and confusing.

FLAXMAN'S series of outline illustrations to Homer, Aeschylus and Hesiod, usually known by the title of *Flaxman's Classical Outlines*, have been issued in cheap and convenient form by Messrs. Seeley. A brief memoir of Flaxman is added, written by Mr. John C. L. Sparkes, head-master of the Art Training Schools at South Kensington. It will doubtless be an advantage in art teaching to have a work like this placed within reach of all students.

THE Exhibition of the Society of British Artists, at the Suffolk-street Galleries, will be open every evening from 7 to 10 o'clock, commencing on Monday next.

A SHORT account is given in the current number of *L'Art* of the eminent French savant and collector, M. Benjamin Fillon, the ninth and tenth series of whose vast and magnificent collection of autographs were sold at the Hôtel Drouot this week. These series were devoted entirely to artists; the ninth amounted to 713 numbers, and comprehended painters, sculptors, architects, and engravers, while the tenth, of 133 numbers, was formed of musical composers. Among the letters of painters were many of the highest rarity and interest, including such names as Leonardo da Vinci, Titian, Michel Angelo, and Vasari, of Italians; Rembrandt, Ostade, Rubens, and Teniers, of Dutch and Flemish masters; Albrecht Dürer, Lucas Cranach, Cornelius, of Germans; Hogarth, Gainsborough, Sir Joshua Reynolds, and Turner, of English; and of French masters, a collection beginning with King René of Anjou (whose claim to be a painter is established by means of the letter by which he is represented) and extending to Meissonier. Several of the most interesting of the autographs are reproduced in facsimile in *L'Art*.

THE fine historical picture of *L'Appel des Girondins*—which won for its painter, M. François Flameng, son of the famous aquafortiste, the Prix de Salon this year—is etched in *L'Art* of this week by M. Gaujean with considerable skill in the discrimination of character. The moment represented is that of October 30, 1793, when the Girondins partook of their last meal in the prison of the Conciergerie.

WE have received from Messrs. Williams and Norgate the first number of the *Etcher*, a magazine for the etched work of artists. It contains three etchings, with text bearing upon them. Mr. Macbeth, a popular artist who has lately done a good deal of work with the etching needle, contributes a figure subject; his women, as usual, not indeed accurately modelled, but of fine proportions and contour. Mr. Heseltine, whose etchings are not so well known as they ought to be, contributes "Ramsgate," a view from one of the piers; the eye looks over the harbour to the lighthouse, and above is the town on the cliff. This is an agreeable and impressive design. Lastly, there is a contribution from Mr. W. B. Scott—"The Norms"—an imaginative subject, accompanied by lines of verse. We have no doubt that there is quite room for the existence of the *Etcher*, and we hope that its existence may lead to the discovery of some unknown etcher of high power, in days when it must be admitted the public, guided by temporary fashion, is by no means exacting.

IT is now regarded as certain that the Cathedral of Cologne will be completed in 1880. The finials of eight metres in height that are to crown the towers have been commenced.

A STATUE is to be erected in Moscow to the Russian poet, Pushkin. Opekunshin, a Russian sculptor, has been entrusted with the task.

WE learn from Munich the death of the historical painter, Karl Gottlieb Peschel. Born in 1798, he was the last notable German painter belonging to the past century. His youth fell into the period of the Napoleonic invasion, and he had a hard struggle in boyhood and youth to obtain an education and earn a livelihood. His first important picture was *Rebecca at the Well*, bought by the Saxon Artistic Society. He then painted frescoes in the villa of J. G. von Quandt, illustrative of Goethe's ballads, and a series of frescoes on mythological subjects in the so-called "Roman-house" at Leipzig. He also assisted Prof. Bendemann in his frescoes in the Royal Palace of Dresden. Appointed teacher at the Dresden Art Academy, he retained this post until his death, a period of forty years.

MUSIC.

NEW SHEET MUSIC.

Six Compositions for the Pianoforte, Op. 20. By A. C. Mackenzie. (Neumeier and Co.) It was at one of the concerts of modern music given by Mr. Coenen, if we remember rightly, that the name of Mr. Mackenzie was first introduced to the London public, the work performed being his pianoforte quartet in E flat. A native composer, whose artistic convictions are sufficiently pronounced to preclude his writing down to the level of popular appreciation, has few opportunities of proving any ability of which he may be possessed. Mr. Mackenzie, for example, still waits for general recognition of his undeniable talent. At the present moment it is impossible to enter upon the general question, but, as regards the six pieces now before us, it may be said that they belong to a class of composition much superior to that of ordinary drawing-room pianoforte music. The titles of the pieces—*Hymnus*, *Ritornello*, *Reminiscence*, *Chasse aux Papillons*, *Reverie*, and *Dance*—but vaguely suggest the style of each. They are all brief, and may be compared with some of the fugitive pieces of Stephen Heller, which they resemble somewhat in style and method of utterance. Nos. 3, 5, and 6, in the order named, are charming little sketches, and will suit pianists of moderate executive powers.

In Olden Times (Aus alter Zeit), pianoforte duets. By H. Hofmann. In two books. The composer of the *Frithjof* symphony—a work, by-the-by, not yet introduced to the notice of English musicians—has here given us a series of seven trifles for four hands, based on themes taken from the works of old composers of various nationalities. The duets may be recommended to the notice of teachers.

Habanera, Serenade, L'Hidalgo, Paquita. By Mortier de Fontaine. As their titles indicate, these are pieces in the Spanish style. The *Habanera* is a bright, piquant little composition, written chiefly for the upper octaves of the pianoforte, the rhythm of the dance being maintained throughout. The others are less interesting.

Feuilles d'Album and *Au Bois*, two suites by Arthur Wilford, have some features of singularity. In the first-named composition the movements are respectively in A flat, G flat, D, and A; in the other they are in A minor, B minor, and F sharp. Perhaps the composer did not intend to imply any connexion between the various sections of his work, but, if so, the term *suite* should not have been employed. Mr. Wilford's music shows that he has drunk deeply at the well of Schumann, but he has ability, and may do better things in due time.

Pendant la Valse, caprice, by Ernest Stoeger, and *Gavotte and Bourrée*, by Otto Booth, may receive a word of acknowledgment. Mr. Booth's little pieces are of the first order of simplicity.

HENRY F. FROST.

M. AMBROISE THOMAS is an excellent musician, and as occupying the post of director of the Paris Conservatoire he is entitled to respect and consideration when appealing to the English public through the medium of his works. But though we may accept, with certain reservations, his lyric version of *Wilhelm Meister*, no amount of familiarity could reconcile us to the sacrilegious treatment accorded to *Hamlet* by the French librettists, Messrs. Carré and Barbier, even were the music more worthy of the stupendous theme than it is. M. Thomas showed the greatest unwisdom in accepting the subject as the basis of an opera, and his work is not one that will endure, notwithstanding the beauty of the scene of Ophelia's madness and death. It was this scene which saved the opera from failure at the outset, both in Paris and London, the exquisite embodiment of Ophelia by Mlle. Christine Nilsson contributing much to the triumph then attained. Since 1869 the part has been played at Covent Garden by Mesdames Sessi and Albani, and last Saturday it was undertaken by Mlle. Heilbron with moderate success. The absurdity of the libretto, considered as an adaptation from Shakspeare, is best illustrated by the fact that it reduces the character of Hamlet to one of secondary importance. In the hands of M. Faure it acquired for the time some special significance, but Signor Cologni, able artist as he is, cannot succeed in interesting his audience in the fortunes and fate of the Danish Prince. The last act is entirely omitted in the Italian version, thus depriving the story of all meaning. The work is indeed little better than a satire on the lyric drama, and its removal from the *répertoire* would give cause for thankfulness.

THE concert season is practically over, the few entertainments given during the past few days having been quite destitute of interest.

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